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# Wrestling

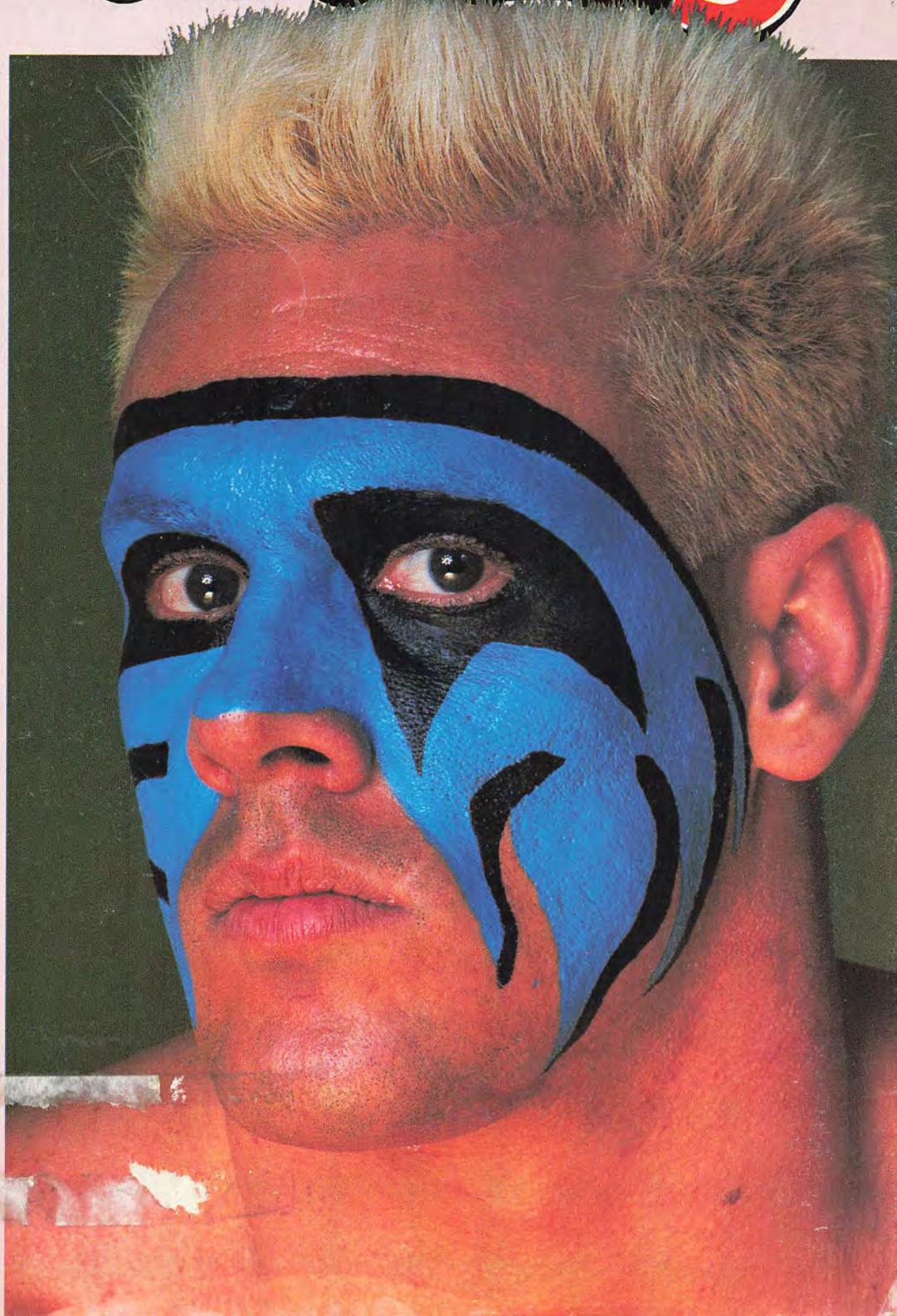
## TRAGEDY STRIKES STING!

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JEFF JARRETT:  
"WHY HAVE ALL MY  
FRIENDS ABANDONED  
ME?"



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INSIDE

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# Inside Wrestling

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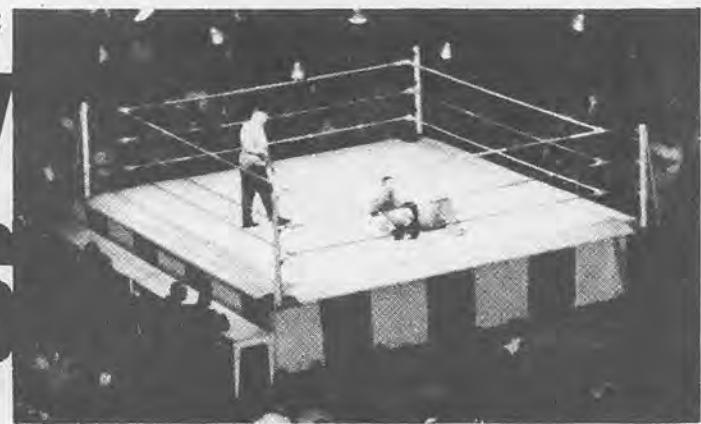
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SEND LETTERS TO:

# SINCERELY YOURS

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## STING DESERVED IT

I recently viewed Clash of the Champions X: "Texas Shootout," and I condone everything Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and Ole Anderson did to Sting.

Sting should have known the stipulations of being a member of The Four Horsemen. One important stipulation is to not challenge fellow Horseman Flair to a World title match. How is Sting supposed to have a series of matches with Flair without showing any hatred toward him?

Everyone told Sting to beware, that a relationship with Flair would be dangerous. It was—but only because *Sting* provoked a title match.

Wise up, *Sting*. Don't challenge your associates for title matches, because you just might make them your enemies.

PETE AMORUSO  
Garfield, NJ

## LAWLER: SCUM ALWAYS

I am writing in rebuttal to Greg Corbin's letter in the April 1990 issue concerning Jerry Lawler ("Dirty Dutch").

I've been following the Lawler situation closely, and have this to say: Jerry Lawler is the type of guy who would murder his parents and plead for mercy because he's an orphan.

Lawler has a hell of a lot of *chutzpah* to blame the people, his fans, and fellow wrestlers for the change in his attitude. Lawler was scum, will be scum, and always has been scum.

Memphis fans cheered Lawler not



Jerry Lawler makes the cover on King Cobra. Reader Kurt Schulz has an extremely low opinion of "The King," calling him a liar and an egomaniac.

because he was a good man, but because he weaved a screen of lies. Lawler is a self-serving egomaniac who cares about nothing and no one but himself. Any man who would boss his wife around like he did after he won the AWA World title *has* to have a few screws loose.

It's funny: For a long time, the only people who ever supported Lawler were the people of Memphis. Now he doesn't even have them.

KURT W. SCHULZ  
Benton Harbor, MI

## BRAVO: A SECOND LOOK

I am writing to comment on a letter in your April '90 issue ("No Bravos For Dino"). I disagree with Ben Pertman about Dino Bravo not having any talent. One must have *some* talent in order to be in any wrestling federation. In addition to talent, one must have determination.

Now, as far as Frenchy Martin is concerned, only Bravo and Martin really know what transpires between them.

Dino Bravo is a championship contender, like all the rest who work hard for that honor.

VALDA ANDERSON  
San Diego, CA

## FLORIDA STILL SHINES

I'd like to ask a favor of your fine publication: Please give more coverage to Florida wrestling. Florida is a growing area with outstanding talent. At the top is a longtime champion, Steve Keirn. Not too long ago, he gave Larry Zbyszko a run for his money.

Another great competitor is Mike Graham. Mike is a ring veteran capable of beating any champion in the world, even Hulk Hogan. Other talent includes The Bounty Hunters, Lou Perez, Dennis Condrey, Dennis Knight, and Mark Starr.

It's the right of the fans to know about this fine wrestling area. It's also the duty of your magazine to cover it for us. Thank you for your cooperation and overall coverage.

BRIAN WERTH  
Neenah, WI

## SHAPE UP, WARRIORS!

In the story in your April '90 issue about The Road Warriors winning at Starrcade '89 ("Iron Team Road Warriors: The Fans Are Keeping Them From The Belts!"), Bill Apter wrote that it's our fault The Legion of Doom no longer has the NWA World tag team title.

No way! As a Warriors fan, I hope they stop wrestling The Skyscrapers and go right after the belts. The Warriors would dominate those geeks the Steiners. Hawk and Animal could out-wrestle, overpower them, and outsmart them.

I just hope the Warriors get their act together and figure out what's more important: fan support or World tag team title status.

RICH STAGNATO  
Woodbridge, VA

What's wrong with The Road Warriors? They got their butts kicked at Clash X, they haven't held a world tag title in a dog's age. Come on, Hawk

and Animal, wake up—you've got the talent, now get back that killer instinct!

DANNY FOLEY  
Atlanta

## VETERAN VIEWS

A few observations from someone who has been watching wrestling for over 20 years:

• Jerry Lawler will always be "The King." Soon he will return to his status as a favorite, even though he doesn't have to in order to remain first in my book. No matter what, he's earned his titles.

• The WWF is obviously the "kid-die" organization. All the kids love their "Hulkster," but he's nothing but a joke; Ric Flair would rip him apart. When Hogan would start his famous eye-bulging and shaking, Flair would simply step out of the ring until he settled down. If Curt Hennig had figured out that strategy, he would probably be champion by now.

• The NWA puts on *quality* pay-per-view programs. They may not be

as popular as the WWF, because they lack the cartoon characteristics, but they are five times more worth the money. The same goes for the cards they put on at the arenas.

Keep up the good work. Your magazines are great, especially the information about the independent organizations. Some of us still care about them.

BILL LESMITH  
Oshkosh, WI

## MORE WWF TITLES?

I wish the WWF would create a TV title like the NWA has. Look at Arn Anderson: He's a deserving wrestler who gets the attention he deserves because of that belt.

WENDY JOHNSON  
Boston



Ted DiBiase invented his "million-dollar belt" in part because there aren't enough titles to contest for in the WWF, writes reader Jim Bradley.

In my opinion, the WWF should give serious consideration to creating both an additional singles title and a second tag team championship.

The large talent roster of the federation, coupled with limited opportunities to obtain either of the current singles titles, has created a climate of frustration among WWF competitors. It has reached the point where wrestlers themselves are inventing their own titles, such as Ted DiBiase's "million-dollar belt" and the "King" designation currently held by Randy Savage.

(Continued on page 46)

"Mean" Mark Callous has made The Road Warriors look bad. Reader Danny Foley says it's time for the Warriors to reignite the killer instinct that made them great.

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu  
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

I'm a little disappointed in Lex Luger. I've always admired this man as an athlete (who hasn't?), but that personality of his! He's been a rulebreaker, he's been a fan favorite, but his life has always revolved around Lex Luger.

I had hoped that if anything positive could come out of Sting's tragic injury, it could have been a change in Luger. There has been a rivalry between the two for years, but as different as they are and as much tension as there has been between them, they do share a common bond: the prophecy that one of them would be the future of the NWA.

When Sting was chopped down by The Four Horsemen and his Wrestle War title shot was given to Luger, I hoped that this would have a profound effect on Lex. I suppose I was hoping that he would have been humbled by Sting's experience. That it would open his eyes to how fragile the human body and a career in sports can be. That he would take to heart the outpouring of affection for the fallen Sting. That he would be able to, for the first time, see life through the eyes of another human being.

I guess what I was hoping for was Luger would be changed as Nikita Koloff was changed when his rival, Magnum T.A., lost his career back in 1986. Instead, Luger remained Luger. He accepted the title match not on Sting's behalf, but because he "deserved the match in the first place." Even when Sting dragged himself on crutches to the ring during Wrestle War and tried to revive a near-beaten Luger by slapping him in the face, Luger's initial reaction was that he wanted to slap Sting back.

I don't mean to downplay the most important aspect of that match: Luger rescuing Sting from a potentially career-ending attack by the Horsemen. Being that he was counted out, however, I can't help but wonder if he doesn't now regret it.

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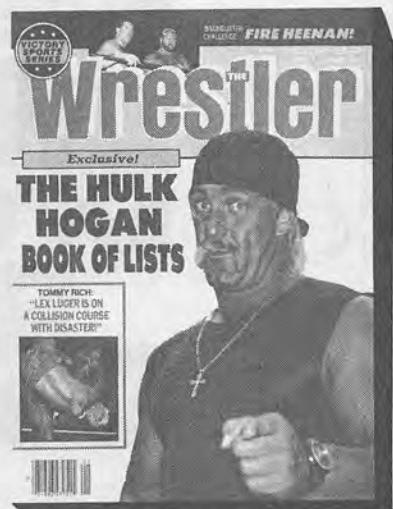
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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David  
Rosenbaum

IT IS A time for celebration, but for Tom Zenk it is also a time for reflection. The age of "I told you so" is finally over.

Zenk and Brian Pillman are NWA U.S. tag team champions.

"I've been waiting a long time for this," Zenk said while sipping a soft drink in front of his locker. "When I left the WWF, everybody said I was crazy. Well, look at this belt. Who's crazy now?"

Zenk, of course, is the man who shocked the WWF several years ago by walking out on his partner Rick Martel and a six-figure contract. Zenk and Martel—then known as The Can-Am Connection—appeared headed for great things. But in the end, Zenk was headed out the door.

"I had no choice," Zenk said. "I was being suffocated by Martel and the WWF's way of doing things. There was just so much pressure, and it was all falling on my head."

"You see, that's what always got me the most angry," Zenk continued. "We were a tag team, but whenever something went wrong, I got the blame. It was always 'Zenk's too young, Zenk's too inexperienced, Zenk doesn't know what he's doing.' And the worst part was that Martel *let* people say these things."

Martel, of course, was the handsome former AWA World champion with a history of tag team triumphs. Zenk was Martel's protege, a youngster prone to mistakes, but also capable of some incredible feats.

"I think, in that tag team, I more than held my own," Zenk continued. "Of course, that wasn't the way other people saw it, and I almost think Martel was relieved when I left."

(Continued on page 50)

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IT'S BEEN A long time since I stayed home and watched a major pay-per-view event on television. Usually I'm at the card in person, then I watch the tape a few days later in the office. You tend to watch the broadcast more closely when you're viewing it live.

Some thoughts and comments after watching Wrestle War '90 live on pay-per-view television:

• Jim Ross remains a paradox to me. He is undeniably one of the very best announcers in the sport. Nobody can communicate the athleticism of professional wrestling to the home viewer as well as Ross can. And nobody brings to light the history of the sport as well as Ross: Throughout the broadcast I noted references to "Flying" Fred Curry, Bull Curry, Gen. Skandor Akbar, "Original Sheik", Paul Boesch, Dan Gable, Gene Kiniski, the first Starrcade in 1983, and Ric Flair's back injury from a near-fatal plane crash in October 1975. Excellent! But on the flip side of the coin, Ross made some potentially slanderous remarks about Jim Cornette during The Midnight Express' match against The Rock 'n' Roll Express



Jim Ross

(I refuse to recap them here; if you saw the tape, you know what I'm talking about). It bothers me that Ross can be so good on the one hand and so sophomoric on the other hand. Like I said, he remains a paradox. Thankfully, though, the positives far outweigh the negatives—but when those negatives make the airwaves, I just want to cringe.

• Speaking of Ross, I sent some flak his way back in the October 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling*. Why? Because on the TBS broadcast of Clash VII, he kept emphasizing "the Coors turnbuckle" and said things like, "Boy, a nice, cold Coors would sure taste great right about now." The point was that a lot of kids watch wrestling. Impressionable kids that shouldn't be exposed to Ross pitching Coors (for the record, I'm against wine cooler ads on MTV, too). Anyway, it's good to see that Ross' sneakers have replaced Coors beer on the turnbuckles. By the way, I also like the Ross commercials featuring The Road Warriors, Lex Luger, Sting, and Rick Steiner. Fun stuff.

• Wrestle War '90 was a bad night for tag team unity. Kevin Sullivan and Buzz Sawyer came to blows (well . . .

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

slaps, actually) during their match against The Dynamic Dudes; Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton were shoving and hitting each other about five minutes into their match with The Rock'n' Roll Express; and Dan Spivey left The Skyscrapers high and dry by not even showing up for their Chicago street fight against The Road Warriors. (Teddy Long claimed an injury kept Spivey away, but I've heard several conflicting reports. And when have you known Long to tell the truth, anyway?)

• Jim Cornette must have been impressed by James "Buster" Douglas' refereeing job two nights earlier on NBC's *Main Event* program. In that match, referee Douglas knocked out match participant Randy Savage. At Wrestle War, Cornette tried to duke it out with referee Nick Patrick. Cornette's attempt at mixing boxing and wrestling quickly faltered when Patrick stood up to the manager.

• Anybody who doubts whether Buzz Sawyer still has what it takes should take another look at the Sullivan and Sawyer vs. Dynamic Dudes match. At one point, Sawyer delivered a thundering belly-to-belly suplex on Shane Douglas, following the move up with a highly impressive side-salto suplex.

• The camera work for the entire card was about what you would expect from the average TBS or syndicated NWA show, except for one notable exception.

During the ring instructions at the outset of Ric Flair's match with Lex Luger, the camera and microphone got as close as possible. We heard referee Nick Patrick's instructions to the wrestlers, and heard Flair's and Luger's comments to each other. Superb.

• Is Ric Flair mellowing? Probably not; more likely he was simply scared of Luger's formidable challenge to his title. How else can you explain the fact that Flair made no pompous and egocentric celebration of his birthday during the card? I'm glad Luger prevented Ole and Arn Anderson from giving Flair the present he obviously wanted most of all: a permanent crippling of Sting. Happy birthday, Ric . . . and many unhappy returns of the day. □





# NAMES MAKI

ALTHOUGH NWA U.S. champion **Alex Luger** failed to win the NWA World title from **Ric Flair** in the main event of Wrestle War '90: "Wild Thing" on February 25 in Greensboro, North Carolina, it appeared a new alliance was formed between the "Total Package" and **Sting**, the man who was originally scheduled to receive that title match.

Sting was forced out of action because of surgery to repair his ruptured left patella on February 13 (see story on page 32), but even this kind of serious injury could not keep the popular star away from the arena for the main event. Sting, who sported a pair of crutches and a full-length brace on



LEX LUGER VS. RIC FLAIR

his left leg, was introduced to the crowd before the bout, but almost no one expected him to come to ringside to give Luger moral support 32 minutes into the match.

"After what Flair and the Horsemen did to me, I would've rooted for anybody to beat Ric," said Sting afterward. "I know I've had some bad feelings for Luger since he turned his back on the fans, but I was really pulling for him to win that belt."



ARN & OLE ANDERSON

Inspired by Sting, Luger came close to doing just that. Luger had Flair hoisted on his shoulders in his "human torture rack" backbreaker, and the champion was totally immobilized. It was at that time that **Arn** and **Ole Anderson** tried to attack Sting outside the ring. Arn grabbed Sting from behind while Ole prepared to hit Sting in his injured knee with one of the crutches. Luger dropped Flair, ran from the ring, and fought both Horsemen off—but was counted out by referee **Nick Patrick**.

"Attacking a crippled man is the kind of thing only the Horsemen would do," said Luger after the match. "When I saw Ole aim that crutch at Sting's bad knee, all I wanted to do was end that attack. I'll have other opportunities at Flair."

Although Sting and Luger walked back to the dressing room separately after the match, it was clear these superstars had a new respect for each other. And in the weeks that followed, Luger began wrestling by the rulebook. Contrary to the opinion of Editor-in-Chief **Stu Saks** (see "Editor's Notebook," page 6), I believe the incident

at Wrestle War has changed Luger for the better.

In other Wrestle War matches: **Kevin Sullivan** and **Buzz Sawyer** defeated **The Dynamic Dudes** ... **Norman the Lunatic** pinned **Cactus Jack** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** downed **The Midnight Express** ... **The Road Warriors** defeated **The Skyscrapers** when **Hawk** pinned a masked Skyscraper who was substituting for **Dan Spivey** ... U.S. tag champions **Tom Zenk** and **Brian Pillman** downed **Michael Hayes** and **Jim Garvin** ... NWA World tag team champions **Rick** and **Scott Steiner** upended **Arn** and **Ole Anderson**.



BRIAN PILLMAN

As we reported last issue, Stampede Wrestling ceased operations in early January, but the longtime Calgary promotion was scheduled to present cards on a limited basis beginning in March. It was hoped that the federation would

# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...



RICKY SANTANA

be back on a full-time schedule by the time you read this . . . **Ricky Santana** upset **Al Madril** to win the Pacific Northwest TV title on February 24 in Portland.

The USWA title was the center of yet another controversy following a match between champion **Jerry Lawler** and **Jimmy Valiant** on February 26 in Memphis. Valiant pinned "The King" to win the match, but the result was being disputed because referee **Jerry Calhoun** ran in the ring and made the count for injured referee **Frank Morell**, who had been hit by a Lawler fireball.

"It seems like every week there's some kind of a dispute around here," griped Lawler. "It's all just another feeble attempt to take my title away from me illegally. Valiant used to be my friend, but now he's proving he's just as jealous of my status as everybody else. I'll destroy him the same way I have all the other supposed contenders around here."

The ICW tag team title, last held by

**Dennis Condrey** and **Doug Gilbert**, has been held up. Condrey and Gilbert defeated **Vic Steamboat** and **Phil Apollo** on December 30 in Augusta, Maine. Steamboat, however, was substituting for the injured **Eric Sbraccchia**. Apollo and Sbraccchia filed a protest, citing that an alternate could not be allowed in a title defense. Even though the protest came two months after the match, ICW officials decided to strip Condrey and Gilbert of the belts until a final judgment on the matter could be determined.



PHIL APOLLO

NWA TV champion **Arn Anderson** was forced to pull out of several title defenses with a herniated disc. Also on the NWA's disabled list are **Buzz Sawyer**, who was nursing an injured left hand, and **Dan Spivey**, who was forced out of action with an undisclosed injury. Manager **Teddy Long** responded to Spivey's loss by signing **Doom—Ron Simmons** and **Butch Reed**—to a contract.

WWF star **Jimmy Snuka** was forced out of action during February after undergoing minor knee surgery . . . **Don Muraco** and **Bob Orton**



BRIAN LEE

were scheduled to make a tour of New Zealand . . . **Robert Fuller** and **Brian Lee**, the erstwhile **Stud Stable** in the USWA, have broken up. Lee has changed so totally that he's come to the defense of fan favorites **Rex Doll** and **Steve King** during matches against Fuller.

WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** has been denying rumors that he was preparing to leave wrestling to become an actor. The February 7 issue of *Variety* reported that Hogan was being recruited by Disney Studios for film work and personal appearances, but Hogan was adamant about staying in the WWF.

"My feet are on the ground, brother," said Hogan during a WNBC-TV interview on February 23. "Every night, I get to 20-30,000 Hulkamaniacs, brother, and I tell them about training, saying their prayers, eating their vitamins. Are you talking about sellin' out to Hollyweird and givin' all this up? You gotta be crazy, man!"

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches!

# THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

I REALIZE THAT I'm writing this in March and you're reading this in April. Still, I happened to catch the WWF's prime-time *Main Event* broadcast a few Friday nights back, and a few things keep nagging at me. For instance:

**Barking Announcers:** Neither Vince McMahon nor his increasingly annoying sidekick Jesse Ventura seem capable anymore of "announcing" a wrestling match. Theirs is a commentary by duet: shrieks and microphones at five paces. Their barks are louder

and much worse than their bites.

Rather than complementing each other's style, ala John Madden-Pat Summerall, Dick Enberg-Al McGuire, or Jim Ross-Gordon Solie, McMahon and Ventura throw playground voices at us, as if the one who could scream the loudest makes the most sense.

The action inside the ring should be of sufficient quality to "scream" for itself. There is no question that announcer enthusiasm lends drama to a broadcast; if the ring action is exciting enough to rile a trained professional, that excitement infects the audience, too. Good announcers use emotion to let viewers know they are witnessing something special.

But when every muscle twitch

is sensationalized, it just as quickly turns viewers off. And if they're like me, they'll silence the shrews with a flick of the remote control.

And don't blame the McMahon-Ventura histrionics on the ear-splitting noise generated by the sold-out crowd. McMahon's booming baritone did not appreciably lower in his locker room interview with Hulk Hogan. Which leads us to . . .

**McMahon & Hogan Sitting in a Tree.** Granted, for all of McMahon's marketing acumen, the WWF would still be a regional federation if it weren't for the bigger-than-life presence of Hulk Hogan. However, this still doesn't forgive McMahon's incessant toadying to the WWF champ.

Long ago, we stopped expecting objective analysis from Vince (God, I Wish I Were A Wrestler) McMahon. But McMahon's interview of Hogan during *Main Event* lent new meaning to the word "cheerleading." His sucking-up to Hogan was actually repulsive; I barfed my soyburger onto the lap of nutritionist/vomit recipient Janis Jibrin.

Standards in today's WWF have degenerated to the point where nothing matters anymore. Is McMahon the promoter or the Federation Head? Is he an objective analyst or a media personality? The answer? McMahon is anything that will make him and the WWF the most money. Which means, for the most part, he is a

(Continued on page 52)



Rather than complementing each other in the broadcast booth, Vince McMahon and Jesse Ventura are equally loud, shrill, and annoying, in Eddie Ellner's opinion.



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# A—ON—ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

**I**F SHEER ENTHUSIASM is any indication, the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association (LPWA) is here to stay. I sat ring-side during the taping of the initial telecast from Don Laughlin's Riverside Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada, and was impressed by the knowledge and spirit of the fans seated beside me.

"It's about time," enthused Ann Farber, who flew from New York to this quaint western town just to see the LPWA debut. "As long as they appear as filler on big federation undercards, women wrestlers will never gain the respect they deserve. They've needed their own federation for years. I think this is great."

And great it was to see the top women talent in the world all in one place. Charter members of the LPWA include: Susan Sexton (the organization's controversial first champion), former NWA U.S. women's champion Misty Blue Simmes, former AWA World women's champion Madusa Miceli, former WWF World women's champion Lelani Kai, the ever-dangerous Linda Dallas, Miss Linda, and many other top stars.

Sgt. Slaughter and veteran blow-by-blow man Ken Resnick perform the commentary for shows that are currently broadcast on nearly 75 percent of U.S. cable outlets—an astonishing number given the short amount of time the federation has been in existence.

"This is the most satisfying job



Susan Sexton is champion of the LPWA, the new women's wrestling organization praised highly by Liz Hunter.

I have ever had in wrestling," said Resnick. "The promoters are very dedicated to this project. They feel, and I agree, that we're breaking new and important ground here. I've never seen a group of athletes more committed to their sport."

The key word is "athlete."

Hopefully, with their own federation, women wrestlers will finally get their just recognition as athletes. No longer will fans dismiss these trained gladiators as hair-pulling, fingernail-scratching, sex-crazed tomcats.

"Certainly that's one image we'd like to eliminate," said Sexton. "I think today's wrestling fan is more sophisticated. They can recognize talent when they see it. Female grapplers get a raw deal when they're associated with non-wrestling, candy-assed valets. There are no valets in the LPWA. Sherri Martel would be welcome in the LPWA [as a wrestler], but Elizabeth would not. There are lots of pretty faces, but every one of them can wrestle. All the managers in this federation are male, and they'd better stick to managing and keep their distance from the ring or else they'll be in for a painful surprise."

My only criticism of the fledgling federation, one shared by Associate Editor Bob Smith, who joined me in Nevada, is the lack of women behind the scenes. "The LPWA ought to think about adding a woman's voice in the announcing booth," Smith suggests. "Good as they are, Resnick and Slaughter can't describe the subtleties specific to a women's sport."

I'd also like to see more in-depth profiles of the grapplers, along the lines of ABC's fascinating "Up Close and Personal"

(Continued on page 54)

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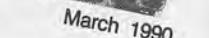


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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## COUNT BILLY VARGA

One of the most hated personalities in the history of wrestling, Varga forged a career as one of the sport's top stars in the '50s and '60s. Now retired, the Count is living a comfortable life in California. He also is a

member of the famous Cauliflower Alley club of former wrestlers. Varga says he still keeps up with the sport today, but claims that today's wrestlers are nowhere of the caliber of the grapplers of his heyday.



## THE GREAT MUTA

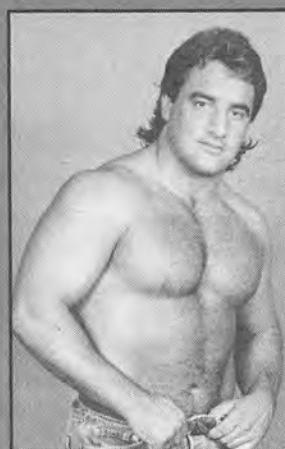
The "Pearl of the Orient" has followed the lead of his former manager, Gary Hart, and has left the NWA. Muta reportedly had an argument with his former management team, the J-Tex Corporation, about the direction his career was headed and decided to drop them as well. The former TV champion was slated to return to Japan to compete, but still would not write off the possibility of a return to the NWA in the future.



## ERIC EMBRY

The man who singlehandedly saved the USWA from a takeover bid by Gen. Skandor Akbar and Tojo Yamamoto last year has left that federation and moved to Florida. The flamboyant grappler now owns and operates the

"Main Event" pizza restaurant in Lake City. He also is in negotiations to begin wrestling for the PWF. "I really loved my fans in the USWA," Embry reported. "Please tell everyone that I miss them very much."



## SCOTT McGHEE

This handsome young scientific star suffered a mild stroke a few years ago that curtailed his wrestling activities. Only 29 years old, McGhee is now completely recovered and living in Tampa, Florida, where he is a medical aid specialist.

He now travels to the homes of ailing people and provides them with the necessary help to aid them with their recovery. "I miss wrestling, but health care is a very rewarding occupation," McGhee said.

# INSIDE WRESTLING

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## CAPSULE PROFILE

BRET HART HAS achieved his greatest fame as a member of The Hart Foundation with Jim Neidhart ("The greatest tag team in the WWF") ... He and Neidhart were paired by Jimmy Hart ("The wisest move he ever made") ... They won the WWF World tag team title from The British Bulldogs in Tampa, Florida, on January 26, 1987 ("The Bulldogs were ripe for the taking") ... Defended the belts mainly against the Bulldogs and the Rougeau brothers ("That's the kind of competition that makes it easy to be a champion") ... Title reign ended on October 27 of that year with a loss to Rick Martel and Tito Santana in Syracuse, New York ("There's no way they should've won that match") ... Harts were voted first runners-up for *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Tag Team of the Year honors in 1987 ("The recognition is nice, but it doesn't compare to winning a belt") ... In 1988, the Foundation dumped Jimmy Hart as their manager ("He'd outlived his usefulness") ... In the days prior to WrestleMania VI, the Harts were demanding a match against the winner of the Colossal Connection-Demolition World title bout ("The Harts were better champions than either one of those teams could ever be") ... Bret has also had

## BRET HART

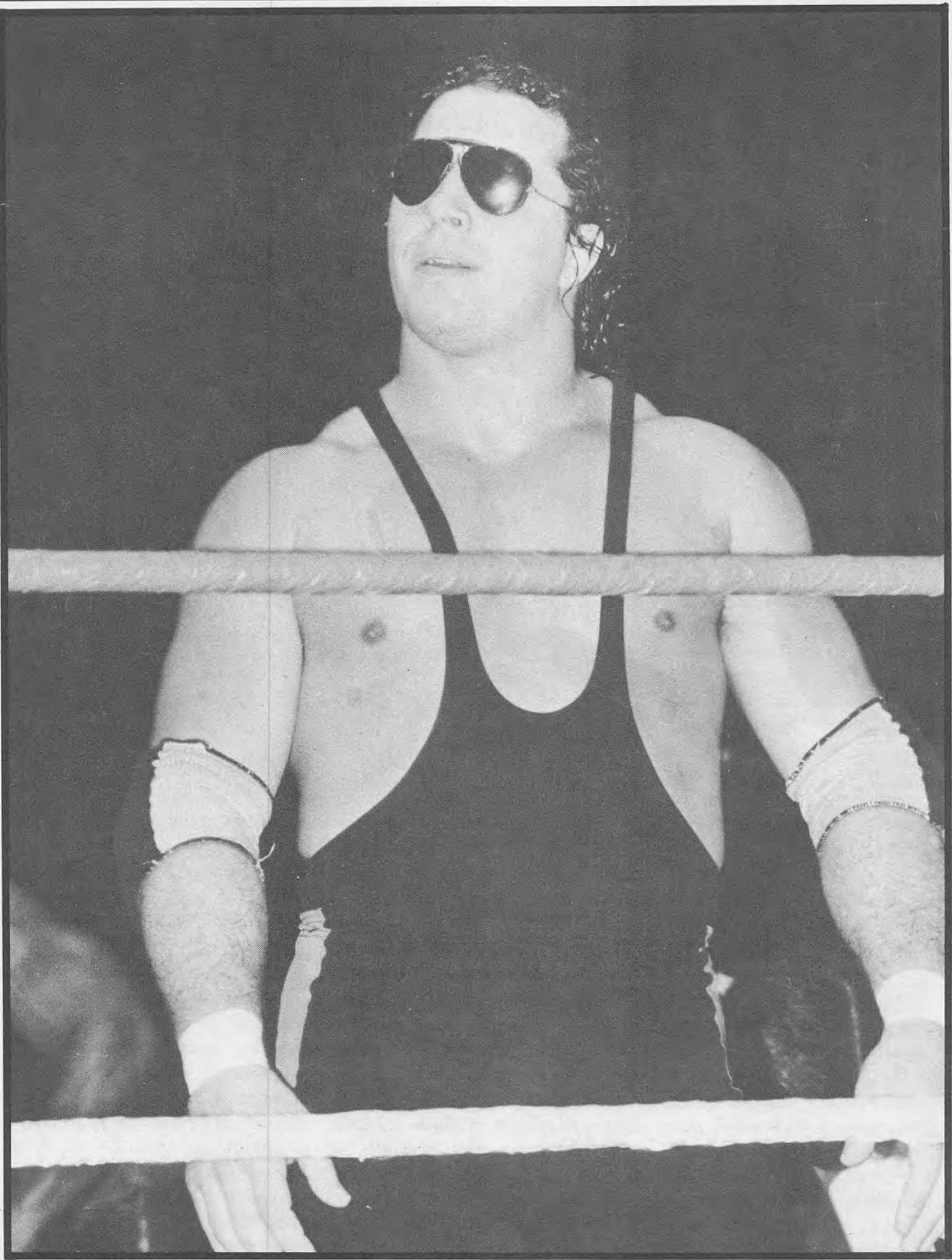


In 1989, Bret Hart had some great scientific bouts against Curt Hennig. Hart, a former WWF World tag team champion, is a master of both scientific wrestling and brawling.

an outstanding singles career, winning several major titles ("That success helped make the team what it was") ... Beat Junkyard Dog for the North American title in 1980, and defended it successfully for more than a year ("Some great wrestlers were going after that belt, too") ... Won the IWGP title in Japan in 1981, defeating Ted DiBiase in a tournament final ("Wrestling—and winning—in Japan is a great experience") ... Also wrestled for both the NWA and AWA World titles early in his career ("Got more championship matches than a lot of veterans did") ... Came to the WWF in 1984 as a fan favorite, but soon changed his ways ("Back then, being a nice guy didn't help") ... While he was a tag

team champion, fought Davey Boy Smith in a series of singles matches ("There's more than one way to whip a Bulldog") ... At the 1988 Royal Rumble, Hart established his great skill and stamina by staying in the ring for nearly 36 minutes ("Nobody in the sport can touch a record like that") ... Began a feud with Bad News Brown after Brown viciously attacked him in the WrestleMania IV battle royal ("Brown may think he's tough, but he really lacks guts") ... In 1989, Hart engaged in a great series of scientific matches with Curt Hennig ("Those were the bouts that proved Hennig less than perfect") ... Hart has proven he's good enough to pursue singles and tag team careers simultaneously. □

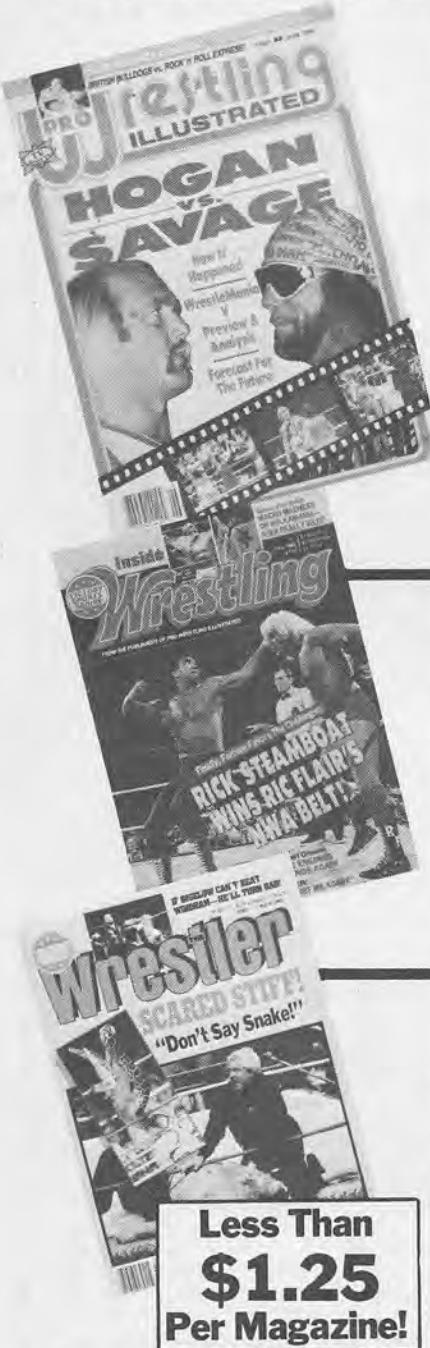
## CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



**BRET HART**

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## HAMMOND, IN By John Valentovich



RIC FLAIR  
vs.  
LEX LUGER



Luger completely dominated the match by working over Flair's back with suplexes and backdrops. When Luger caught Flair in the "human torture rack" backbreaker, it seemed the NWA World title would be his. But Luger erred by taunting the fans. Flair rallied and caught Luger in a figure-four leglock, but Luger made his way to the ropes and broke the hold. When Luger argued with the referee, Flair cradled him for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Road Warriors and The Skyscrapers were both disqualified ... The Royal Family defeated Eddie Gilbert & Tommy Rich ... Steve Williams beat The Samoan Savage ... Norman the Lunatic defeated The Iron Sheik ... Mike Rotundo pinned Ranger Ross ... Tom Zenk pinned Michael Hayes.

## ATLANTA, GA By Paul Parker



BRUTUS BEEFCAKE  
vs.  
RICK MARTEL



At the beginning of the match, Martel tried to scare Beefcake by yelling in his face. When Beefcake went to get his hair clippers, Martel attacked him. Martel quickly tried for the Boston crab, but Beefcake reached the ropes. Beefcake took control and tried for the sleeper, but Martel got to the ropes. Beefcake finally scored the pin when he rolled Martel up as Martel tried to hold the ropes.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Hulk Hogan pinned Curt Hennig ... The Powers of Pain defeated The Rockers ... Roddy Piper beat Rick Rude by DQ ... Jimmy Snuka pinned The Honky Tonk Man ... Jim Neidhart defeated Lanny Poffo by countout ... Tugboat Thomas pinned Steve Lombardi.

## BATON ROUGE, LA By Sean Fluharty



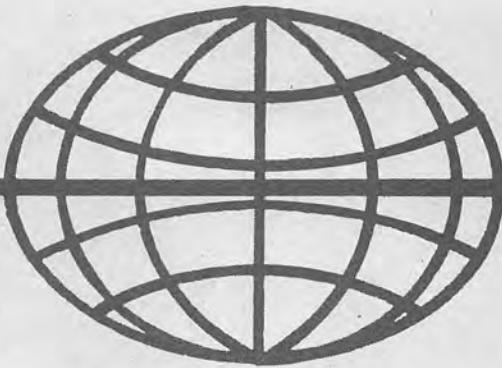
JAKE ROBERTS  
vs.  
TED DiBIASE



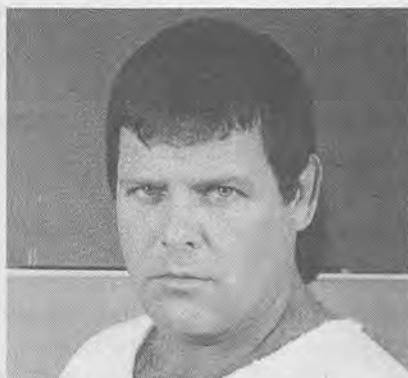
Roberts attempted to DDT DiBiase several times, but DiBiase always managed to counter and escape. DiBiase gained the advantage with several blows to Roberts' neck. Roberts fought back and was about to try another DDT on DiBiase when Virgil broke the hold. When DiBiase turned his back on "The Snake" to get some advice from his bodyguard, Roberts rolled him up in a small package for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Koko B. Ware pinned Frenchy Martin ... Hercules Hernandez defeated Al Perez ... Paul Roma pinned Tugboat Thomas ... Tito Santana beat Akeem by DQ ... The Bushwhackers defeated The Bolsheviks ... Dusty Rhodes pinned Big Bossman.

# WRESTLING CAPITALS



**MEMPHIS, TN**  
By Mark Mitchell



**JERRY LAWLER**  
vs.  
**JUNKYARD DOG**



On this occasion, Lawler was accompanied to the ring by Nate the Rat. After referee Jerry Calhoun was knocked out, Lawler took Nate's cane and started hitting JYD with it. The Dog then grabbed the cane and started hitting Lawler. When Calhoun shook off the effects of the collision and got back up, he saw this and disqualified JYD.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jimmy Jack Funk & Dutch Mantel beat Gary Young & Chris Youngblood by DQ ... Chris Champion defeated Rockin' Randy ... Bill Dundee beat Dirty White Boy by DQ ... The Southern Rockers defeated Robert Fuller & Brian Lee ... Jeff Jarrett beat Billy Travis ... King Cobra beat The Soultaiker by DQ.

**BALTIMORE, MD**  
By Ray Ney



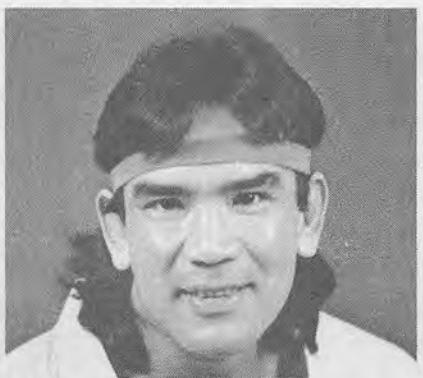
**NORMAN THE LUNATIC**  
vs.  
**KEVIN SULLIVAN**



This match between two of the strangest men in the NWA had a very unusual ending. When Norman and Sullivan ended up battling outside the ring, Sullivan tossed Norman's teddy bear into the crowd. When Norman went after it, Sullivan got back in the ring and beat the referee's 10-count. Norman had ignored the ref's count because he was too busy trying to find the teddy bear.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Royal Family beat Eddie Gilbert & Ranger Ross ... Tommy Rich pinned Mike Rotundo ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Midnight Express ... The Wild Samoans beat The Dynamic Dudes ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Doom ... Arn Anderson beat Buzz Sawyer ... Ric Flair beat Lex Luger.

**REIDSVILLE, NC**  
By Bob Johnson



**RICK STEAMBOAT**  
vs.  
**TULLY BLANCHARD**



They shook hands before the opening bell rang, but after the bell Blanchard tore at Steamboat with a vengeance. "The Dragon" battled back brilliantly, but Blanchard pinned him—by using his feet on the ropes for leverage. The fans, however, were not about to let this kind of illegal victory stand. They pointed out the infraction to the referee, who reversed the decision and ordered the match to continue. Steamboat pounced on Tully and rammed his head into the ringpost, then captured him in a small package for the hard-fought victory.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Tommy Landell beat Ali Bey the Turk by disqualification ... Judy Martin beat Joyce Grable ... The Zebra Kid defeated Mike Maverick ... Hector Guerrero beat The Master of Pain.



# Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

**DETROIT, MI:** Just one question, then I'll try to provide some answers: When do Hulk Hogan or Ric Flair get to referee a championship boxing match? When Mike Tyson lost the heavyweight boxing title to Buster Douglas, many wrestling people—including myself—were thankful. Tyson had already signed to referee the Hogan-Randy Savage match on February 23 here, and the loss to Douglas

ensuing manhandling of Savage only proved he shouldn't have been trusted to be a referee. Referees are supposed to be well-trained, clear-thinking individuals with respect for the rules of the sport. Douglas has no interest in the sport, only in the almighty dollar. With the biggest audience of the year looking on, wrestling was much poorer for his presence.

**ALBANY, NY:** Is this the next mecca of professional wrestling? Last November, the NWA held its Clash IX: "New York Knockout" card in Troy, which is only five miles up the road. In mid-February, 17,000 fans jammed into the spanking-new Knickerbocker Arena to see a WWF card (Hogan was on the bill, of course). Apparently, there's something about this area that appeals to wrestling promotions. Maybe it's that the people up here are starved for entertainment. There's really not much going on, unless you consider minor-league basketball "entertainment." Also, a few top stars, such as Hacksaw Duggan, are from the area. Basically, another major building has been opened for the federations to fight over. The war, of course, belongs to the WWF as long as 17,000 fans keep showing up. As for the NWA, their upcoming return to the Byrne Meadowlands Arena was a major coup. If successful, Flair and company can wage a serious war against the WWF, which has always been strong in the New York metropolitan area. Albany and East Rutherford, New Jersey. Two unlikely cities worth keeping an eye on as the NWA-WWF wars continue. But let's face it: Wouldn't an NWA/WWF joint card be even better? Maybe Japan isn't that bad after all.

**TOKYO, JAPAN:** This was something else. The All-Japan and New Japan federations got together for a joint card, something that had never been done before. All told, nearly 65,000 fans packed the Tokyo Dome (that's about 23,000 more than watched Tyson-Douglas here the next night; so much for boxing helping wrestling's popularity) for what was probably the most historic card in wrestling history. Yes, you read that right. When the NWA and WWF get together for a supercard, I'll recon-



BUSTER DOUGLAS & HULK HOGAN

figured to boot Tyson out of his reported \$1-million payday. Well, Tyson was out, but Douglas was in. Again, why? Why must wrestling promoters—Vince McMahon in particular—always try to lure an audience with the prospect of seeing stars from another sport or from the entertainment world? There's nothing wrong with wrestling. Sure, the fans didn't want to see Hogan-Savage again (Hogan has proven his superiority countless times), but a Hogan-Ultimate Warrior pre-WrestleMania VI preview, or even a socko tag team match, would've brought up the ol' Nielsen ratings. Instead, McMahon once again proved he has no confidence in his product. Too bad. Douglas' incompetent officiating spoiled a good match. The three-count on Savage was absolutely too fast, and the "Macho Man" had every right to complain. Of course, Douglas'

# Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

sider that assessment, but for now, this All/New alliance was something for the ages. Also for the ages was Mr. Saito's win over Larry Zbyszko for the AWA World title. I don't buy Saito's change of attitude, by the way. It was merely a ploy to get a shot at a rulebreaking world champion. That done, Saito will return to his normal devious ways before long. "I'm glad somebody agrees with me," Zbyszko said when I offered him this opinion. "Saito's devious scum, and it's always something I've admired him for. This new Saito makes me sick. Maybe that's why I lost." In all likelihood, Zbyszko lost because Saito is the better wrestler. After over a year, Zbyszko's cheating stopped working. I don't expect to see the belt around his waist again.

**ATLANTA, GA:** In the hospital with Sting during his rehab . . . talking nutrition. The "Stinger" claims that, if not for his balanced diet, the odds of complete recovery from his knee injury would be much slimmer. "I've al-



MR. SAITO



STING

ways tried to keep my cholesterol level down," Sting said. Sounds like my kind of man. Of course, doctors have often linked physical fitness with remarkable recoveries. Look at Magnum T.A. He was supposed to be crippled for life, but now he's walking and has nearly full use of his arms. If not for his diet and physique, that might have been impossible. So, I'm predicting a 100 percent recovery for Sting. His injury is serious, but not overwhelmingly alarming. Of course, missing time at this stage of Sting's career is nothing to brush off as insignificant. The Wrestle War '90 title match with Ric Flair was an incredible opportunity for Sting. Flair knew that, and went to drastic measures to make sure it never happened. What now? Well, Luger looked great at Wrestle War, and his next several months will be spent going against Flair. Upon his return, Sting will have to work himself into shape. I'd say that in nine to 12 months, Sting will be back in championship form. Perhaps I'm wrong. Still, the virtues of a good diet can't be ignored. Just look at me. Nobody's kicked sand in ol' Matt's face for a long time. □

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# *Japanese Shocker!*

# MR. SAITO DEFEATS LARRY ZBYSZKO FOR THE AWA WORLD TITLE!

*For most of his career, Mr. Saito embraced the evil ways that Larry Zbyszko used to win and keep the AWA World title. But when Saito took a turn for the best, Zbyszko's title hopes took a turn for the worst*



Larry Zbyszko (above) had his AWA World title taken from him by Mr. Saito (right), the Japanese veteran who, until recently, was as evil as Zbyszko.

By Dave Rosenbaum

*"You can take the man out of the evil, but you can't take the evil out of the man."*

—Bruno Sammartino



Photos by Koichi Yoshizawa

THAT QUOTE CAN mean many things. Bruno Sammartino once said it, and he was probably referring to men like Capt. Lou Albano, Brutus Beefcake, or Demolition. Who knows?

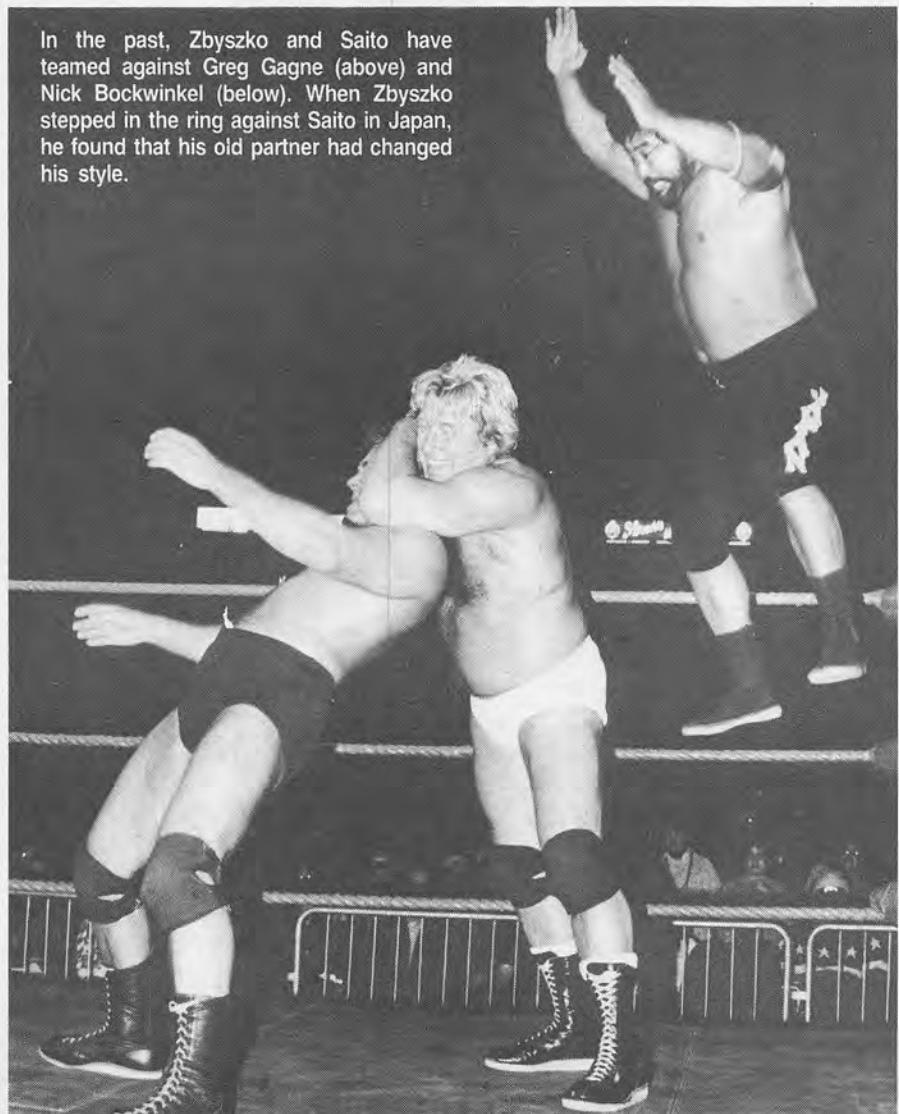
Anyway, what Sammartino most likely meant was that although a rule-

breaker and lifetime practitioner of evil might atone for his sins and lead a worthy life, a speck of evil will always remain in his blood. Instincts, after all, remain instincts.

So, when Mr. Saito recently disavowed his life of crime and challenged



In the past, Zbyszko and Saito have teamed against Greg Gagne (above) and Nick Bockwinkel (below). When Zbyszko stepped in the ring against Saito in Japan, he found that his old partner had changed his style.



Larry Zbyszko for the AWA World title, a big smile covered Sammartino's face.

"That doggone Zbyszko has finally met his match," Sammartino said. "He's finally wrestling somebody that's dirtier than he is, and that's saying something. Every time Zbyszko tries something devious, he's gonna find that Saito is a step ahead of him."

History was made in many ways on February 10 in Tokyo, Japan. For the first time ever, the All-Japan and New Japan federations cooperated for a joint card. To put into perspective exactly how significant that is, consider the NWA and WWF joining forces for a card.

Over 63,000 fans packed into the Tokyo Dome to see politician/wrestler Antonio Inoki team with Seiji Sakaguchi; they beat Masa Chono and Shinya Hashimoto. Sumo grand champion Koji Katao made his pro wrestling debut and beat Bam Bam Bigelow. IWGP champ Big Van Vader wrestled to a double-countout with Stan Hansen.

There were other outstanding matches, but none brought a bigger rise out of the crowd than Saito's spectacular win over Zbyszko.

"I am proud that I have brought honor not only to myself but to the Japanese people," Saito said afterward. "For many years, I have not been true to my people and the fans. I have deserted the rules. This is a tribute to what happens when things are done honorably."

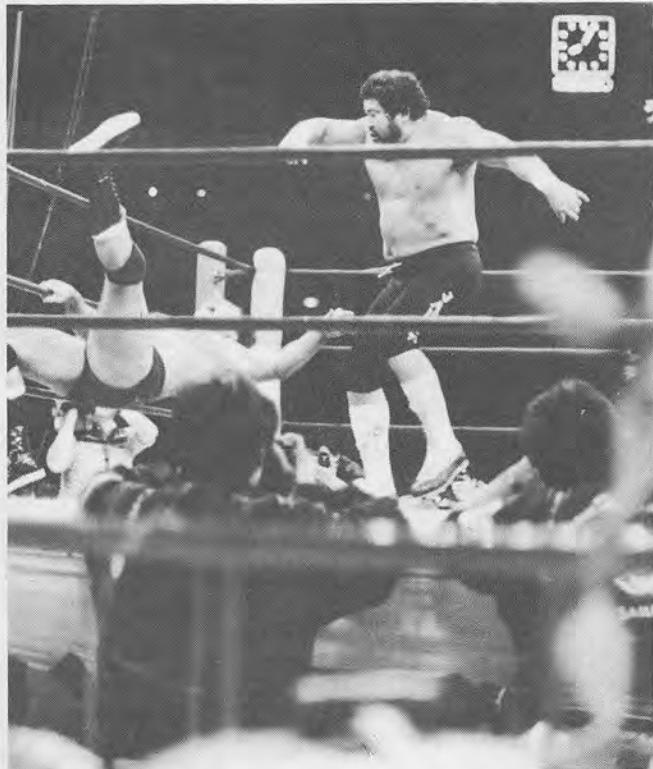
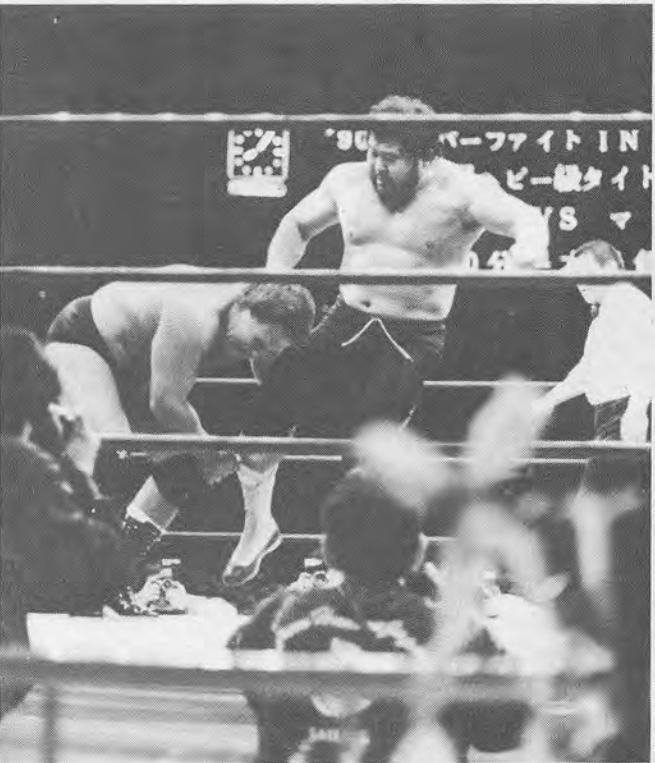
Indeed, during his 25-year pro career, Saito had never won a world singles title. Instead, his ring exploits were marked by heinous deeds, exploitative rulebreaking, and unscrupulous acts. He has, in fact, been called the meanest Japanese wrestler ever to step through the ropes.

On December 16, Saito signaled his change of attitude. "I am a great wrestler," Saito said. "I know every hold known to man. I must prove this to fans not only in my own country, but in the United States as well."

Zbyszko, a longtime friend of



As these photos demonstrate, Saito dominated the match. More than 63,000 fans witnessed the end of Zbyszko's year-long title reign. Saito says he was determined to wrestle honorably in front of his countrymen.



Saito's, was shocked by the change. He was already angry at Saito for trying to pass himself off as a masked AWA wrestler known as "The Unknown Soldier" to get a title shot in the United States. After he and Saito battled to a double-countout, Zbyszko vowed to destroy Saito and end his career. "Nobody makes a fool out of me like that," Zbyszko said.

Although he didn't know it, Zbyszko's time as champion was running out. He won the title under questionable circumstances in a battle royal on February 7, 1989. As champion, he brought dishonor to a belt that had been worn by some legendary athletes. In defeat, as an ex-champion for the first time, Zbyszko again failed to distinguish himself.

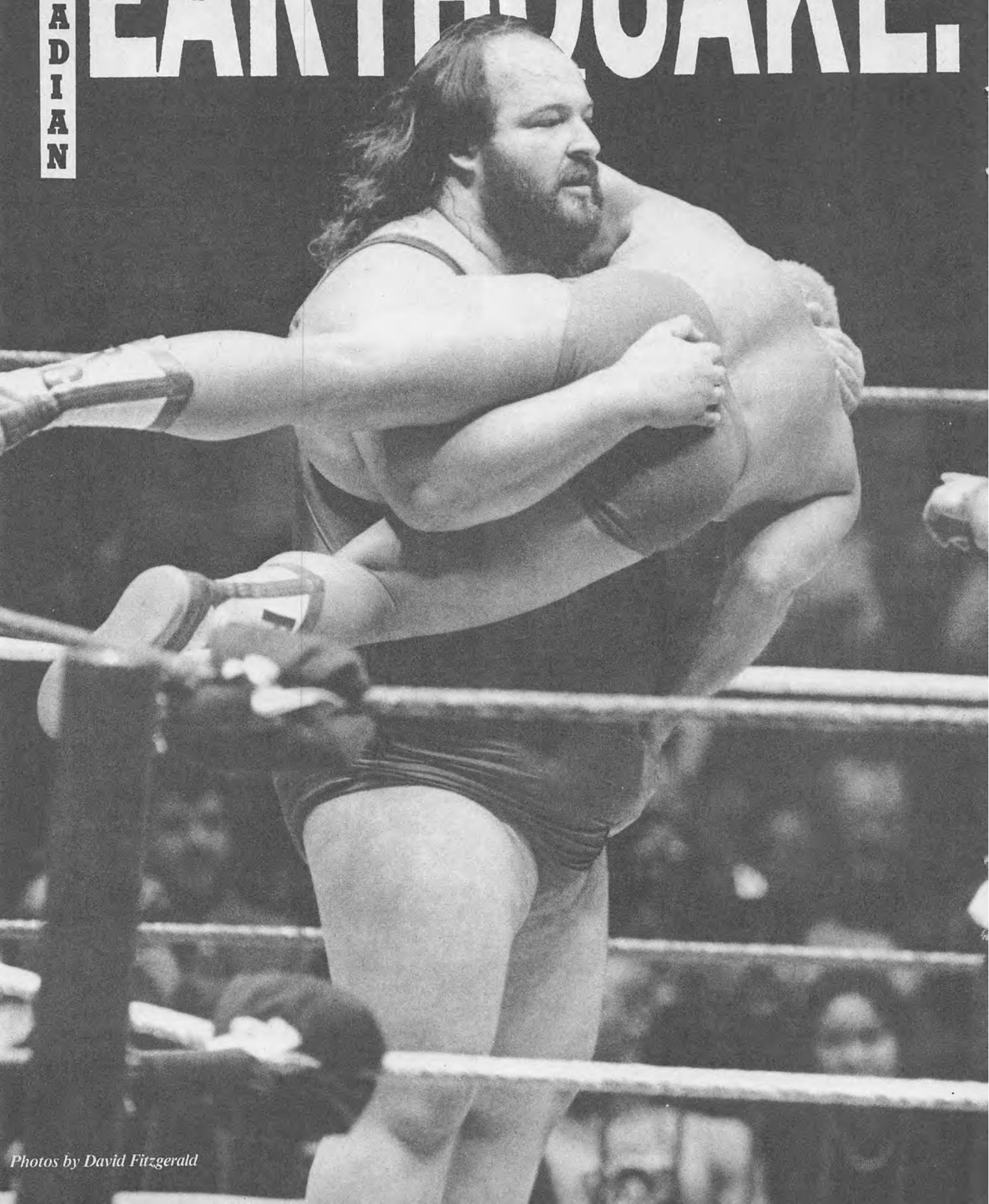
"I've been robbed!" Zbyszko claimed, but a cleaner pin has seldom been scored.

Zbyszko looked like a fool from the opening bell. His usual assortment of kicks and punches were rendered virtually useless by Saito's enormous scientific skills.

"He tried to make a mockery of this  
*(Continued on page 56)*

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# EARTHQUAKE!



# THE WWF BRACES FOR A NATIONAL DISASTER!

**There's never been a wrestler like the mighty Canadian Earthquake, who uses his 462-pound frame to crush opponents. How long can the WWF withstand this type of destruction?**

By Dave Rosenbaum

RONNIE GARVIN HAD never experienced anything like it. At the time, he felt like somebody had driven a sledgehammer through his chest. For days afterward, he was unable to speak. Watching the replay of what happened merely served to renew the pain.

It happened on February 19 at New York's Madison Square Garden. The main event of the card was a tag team match pitting Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake against Lanny Poffo and Curt Hennig, but the crowd left the Garden talking about what Canadian Earthquake did to Garvin.

With Garvin down on the mat, having already suffered a substantial beating, the 462-pound Earthquake repeatedly leaped onto Garvin's chest. The referee tried to stop the carnage, but Earthquake couldn't be restrained. Finally, Earthquake pinned Garvin, and the former NWA World champion had to be carried out on a stretcher.



Canadian Earthquake can easily manhandle a great wrestler like Ronnie Garvin (opposite page and above).

It was a brutal act, but certainly nothing new as far as the Earthquake is concerned.

This same scene—brutal attempts at crushing opponents' chests—has been played out in other arenas across the country, and on opponents of varying degrees of talent.

"He's doing a number on our roster of available wrestlers," a WWF promoter said.

And there's nothing the WWF can do. He was, after all, recruited and signed by the WWF.

Now the WWF must sit back and feel the earth shake. The WWF is bracing for disaster.

"He's one of the most incredible human beings I've ever seen, if he *is* human," former WWF wrestler Don Muraco said. "He's huge, but he knows how to use his weight better than anyone I've ever seen. Not only that, he has all this weight *and* a frightening mean streak. That's what's so bad".

According to WWF insiders, Earthquake came to the federation after years of training as a sumo wrestler. That explains Earthquake's ability to use his weight. What isn't so clear is why he's so mean and appears to have a vendetta against everyone.

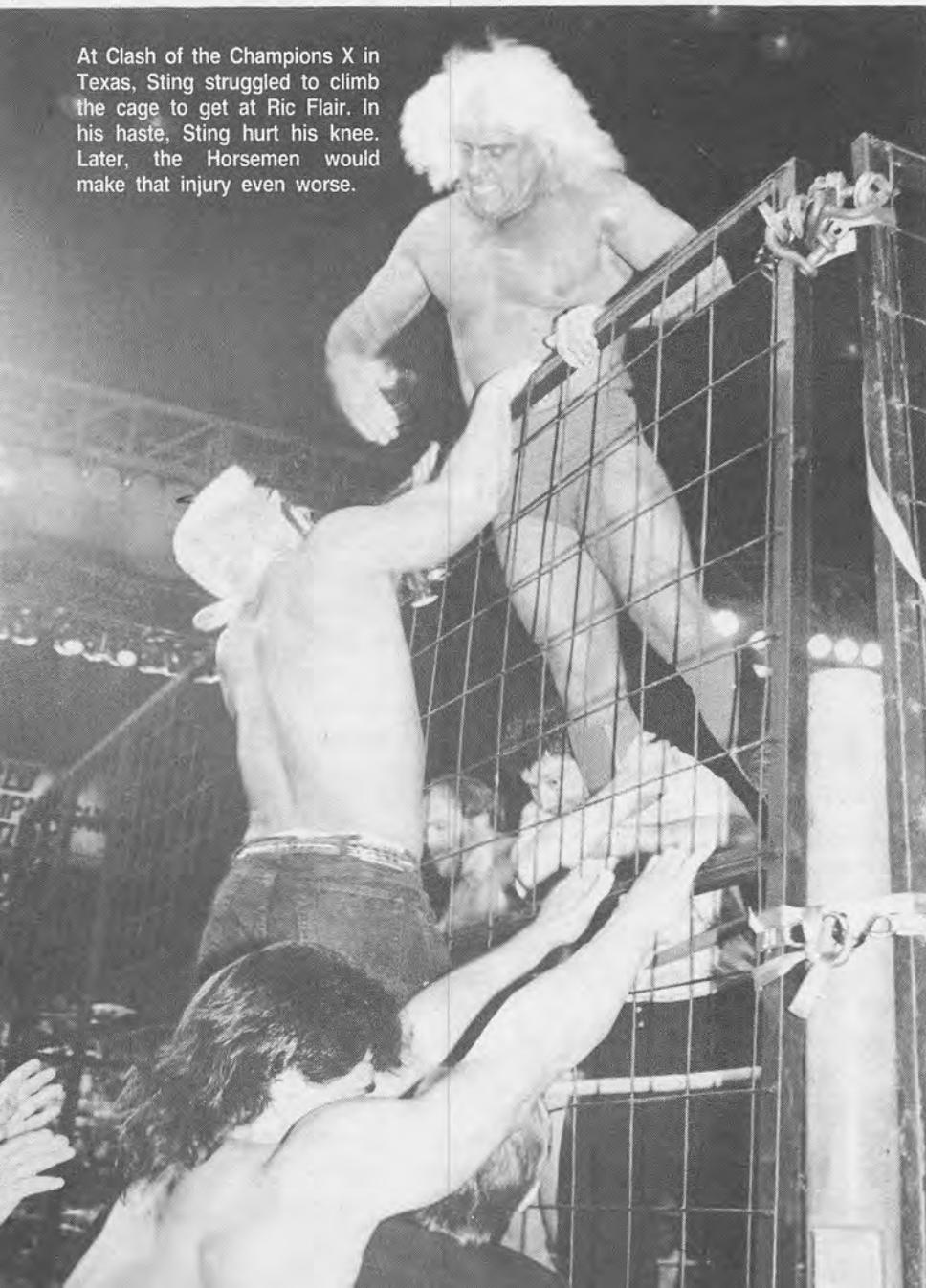
Some say Earthquake is a product of manager Jimmy Hart's warped influences. Over the past

(Continued on page 58)

# TRAGEDY STRIKES STING!

## How You Can Help Speed His Recovery

At Clash of the Champions X in Texas, Sting struggled to climb the cage to get at Ric Flair. In his haste, Sting hurt his knee. Later, the Horsemen would make that injury even worse.



Photos And Text By Bill Apter

IT HAPPENED SO quickly that nobody, not even Sting, realized what happened.

Isn't that always the case with earth-shattering events? In an instant, and before anybody realizes what's happened, something occurs that changes the course of history.

In this case, wrestling history was changed forever in a split-second on February 6, 1990, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

"I can't pinpoint the exact moment when it happened, but I do remember feeling a sharp pain at some time," Sting said. "The thing is, my adrenaline was rushing through my body. I was in such a rage trying to get at Flair that I couldn't feel anything."

Hours later, however, Sting woke up in a hospital bed feeling the greatest pain of his life.

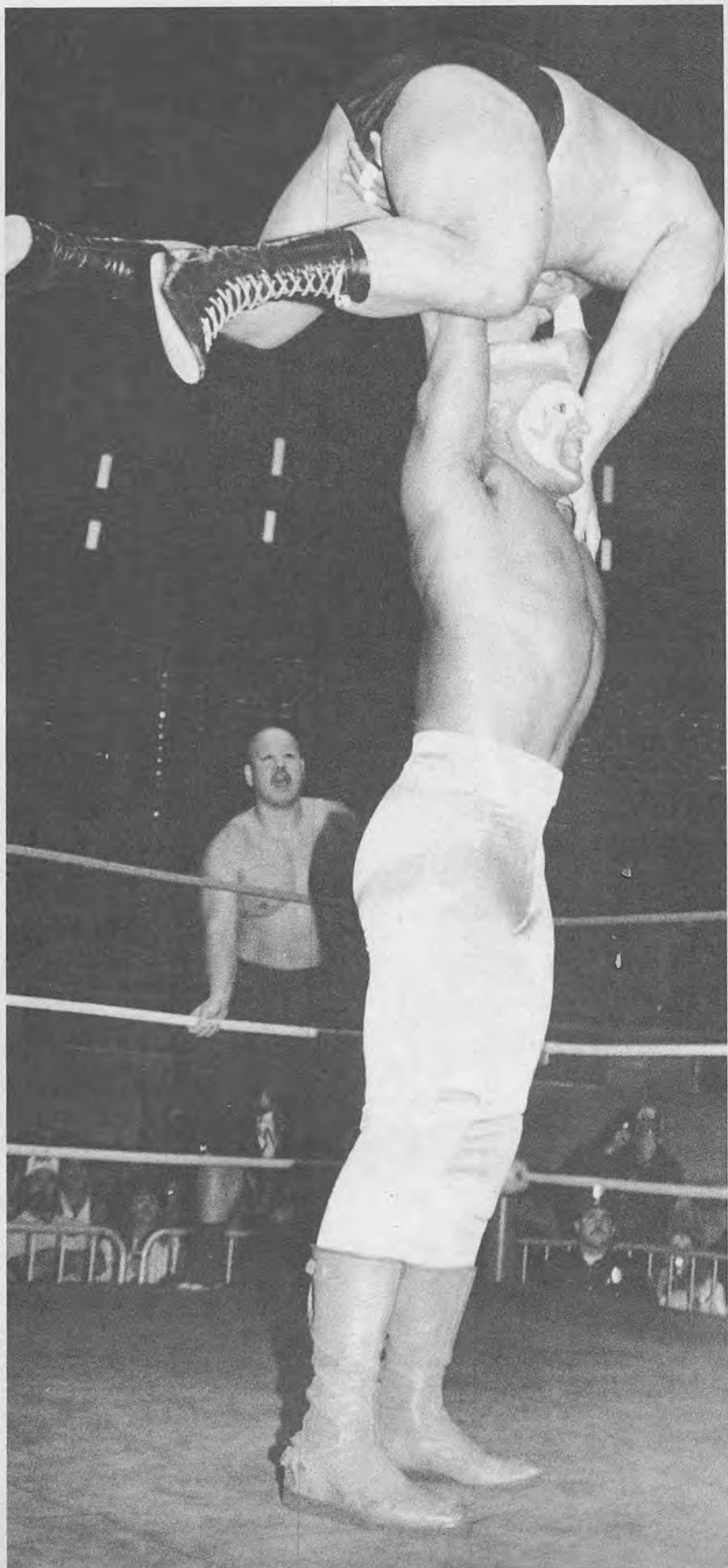
"I woke up and wanted to scream," Sting said, "but I didn't, because I wasn't sure where I was. All I knew was that Flair and the Andersons did it, and I knew I had to get them back."

But there will be no revenge for Sting . . . not for now. His injury, diagnosed as a ruptured left patella (kneecap), will keep him out of action until at least mid-August. It also kept him out of the Wrestle War '90 main

**Not long ago, Sting seemed unstoppable, a sure bet to win the NWA World title in 1990.**

**Then, on February 6, The Four Horsemen dealt a critical blow to Sting's career. Now, this young superstar is trying to recover from a serious knee injury. He needs your help!**





Sting lifts Buzz Sawyer for a press-slam. The "Stinger" was looking unbeatable as he piled up the victories on his way to the Wrestle War '90 showdown with Flair.

event; U.S. champion Lex Luger took Sting's place in the February 25 match against NWA World champion Ric Flair.

"Yeah, I felt bad for Sting, but I deserved that match in the first place," Luger said. "I hate to see a young guy get hurt like that, but those are the breaks in this sport. You take your lumps, you try to avoid serious injury, and you take advantage of your opportunities. This is my opportunity."

But it was an opportunity Luger would not have had if not for an outright criminal act by Flair, Ole Anderson, and Arn Anderson. Many words have been used to describe what the Horsemen did to Sting: despicable, outrageous, evil, disgusting.

No matter what the description may be, the Horsemen dealt a serious setback to this young superstar's career.

"And we're glad we did it," Flair said, his voice not showing even the slightest hint of regret.

#### **HOW TO WRITE TO STING**

*Inside Wrestling* is spearheading the campaign to keep the connection between Sting and the fans as strong as can be. While we can't print Sting's personal home address, we can make this promise: All cards and letters to Sting that are sent to *Inside Wrestling* will be immediately forwarded to him at his home.

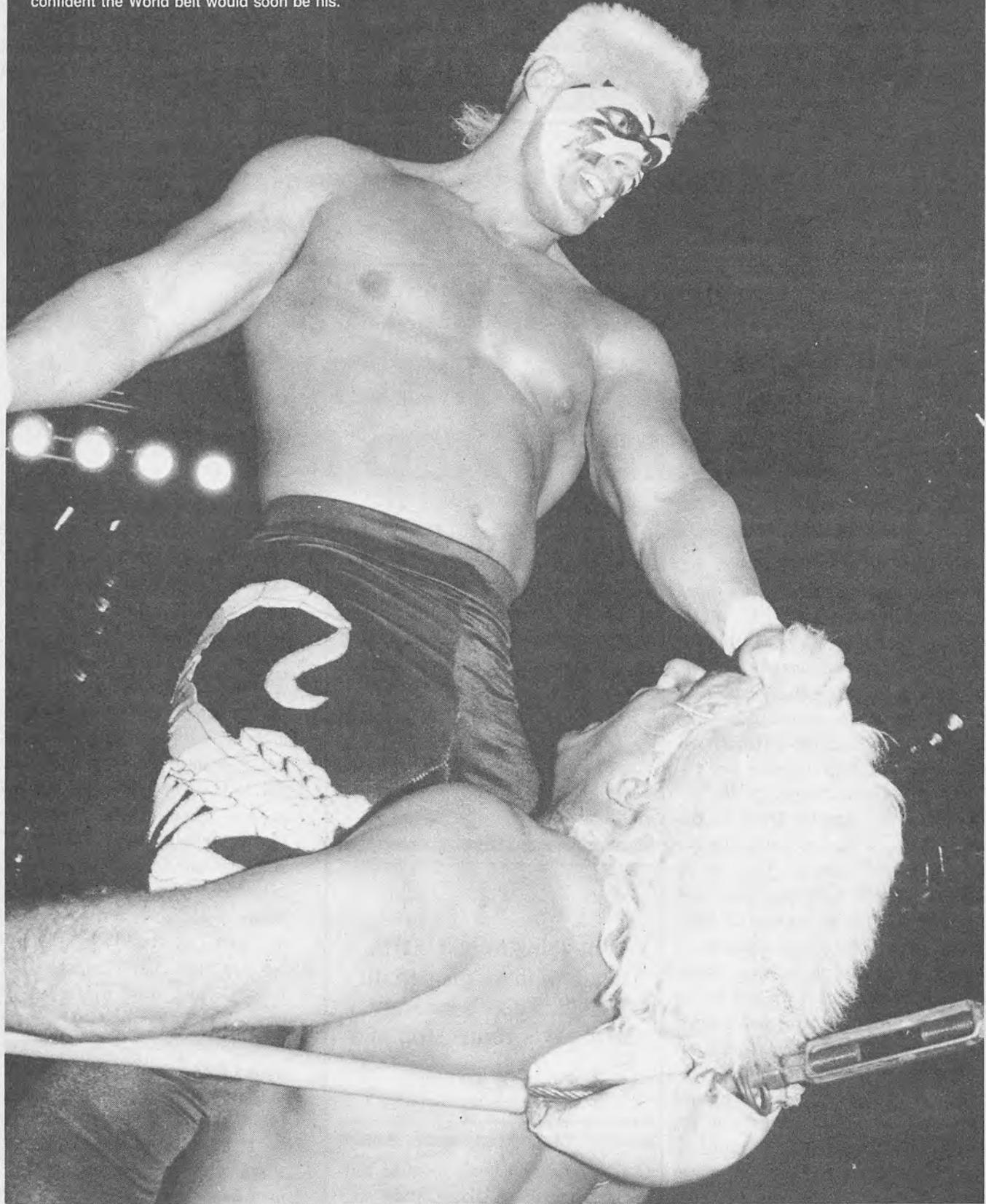
Address your correspondence to: Sting c/o *Inside Wrestling*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Send your cards and letters today. Now, more than ever, Sting needs your support!

Sting apparently injured his knee initially while trying to enter the cage during a match pitting Flair and the Andersons against The Dragon Master, Buzz Sawyer, and The Great Muta at Clash of the Champions X on February 6.

Earlier in the evening, the Horsemen told Sting he was no longer a member because he accepted a title match against Flair at Wrestle War '90. The

When Sting defeated Flair at Starrcade '89 to win the Iron Man tournament, he was confident the World belt would soon be his.



Horsemen demanded that Sting pull out of the title match and gave him until the end of the card to do it.

When Ole Anderson turned away from the conversation, Sting grabbed

him. Flair punched Sting. As the Andersons held Sting's arms, Flair repeatedly slapped his face. Sting fell to the canvas, and Flair slapped him one more time before exiting the ring.

Sting was originally scheduled to team with Arn and Flair in the Clash X cage match, but was replaced by Ole. During the match, Sting tried to  
*(Continued on page 60)*

# HOTSEAT

## JEFF JARRETT

### "WHY HAVE ALL MY FRIENDS ABANDONED ME?"

**I**N THE PAST, Jeff Jarrett has been one of the most self-assured young stars in the sport. He realized that his vast ability was rushing him to the forefront of the ranks of soon-to-be superstars. His career had been buoyed by sturdy relationships with several veteran wrestlers, including Jerry Lawler and Billy Travis.

But things have changed for this second-generation grappler. While his natural talent continues to make him one of the hardest men to beat in the USWA and CWA, he is finding himself with a dwindling number of allies. While Jarrett knows that alliances are bound to change in such a volatile sport, he is still shaken by how he has been betrayed by Travis and Lawler, two people he once believed he could always count on.

Last year, Jarrett and Travis were frequent tag team partners in the CWA. But when Travis ventured to the USWA, he signed a contract with Gen. Skandor Akbar, the infamous rulebreaking manager. Travis began bringing a guitar to the ring; on a few occasions, he smashed Jarrett over the head with it! Earlier this year, Lawler attacked Jarrett with Travis' guitar,

too. "The King's" turn to rulebreaking has made Jarrett wonder if there is anyone left for him to turn to. It has also made him hungry for the USWA championship that Lawler currently holds.

Associate Editor Bob Smith traveled to Jarrett's hometown of Memphis to speak with the blond fan favorite about the loss of two of his closest companions.

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I'm going to be USWA champion by the end of 1990. There's no way anybody's gonna stop me.

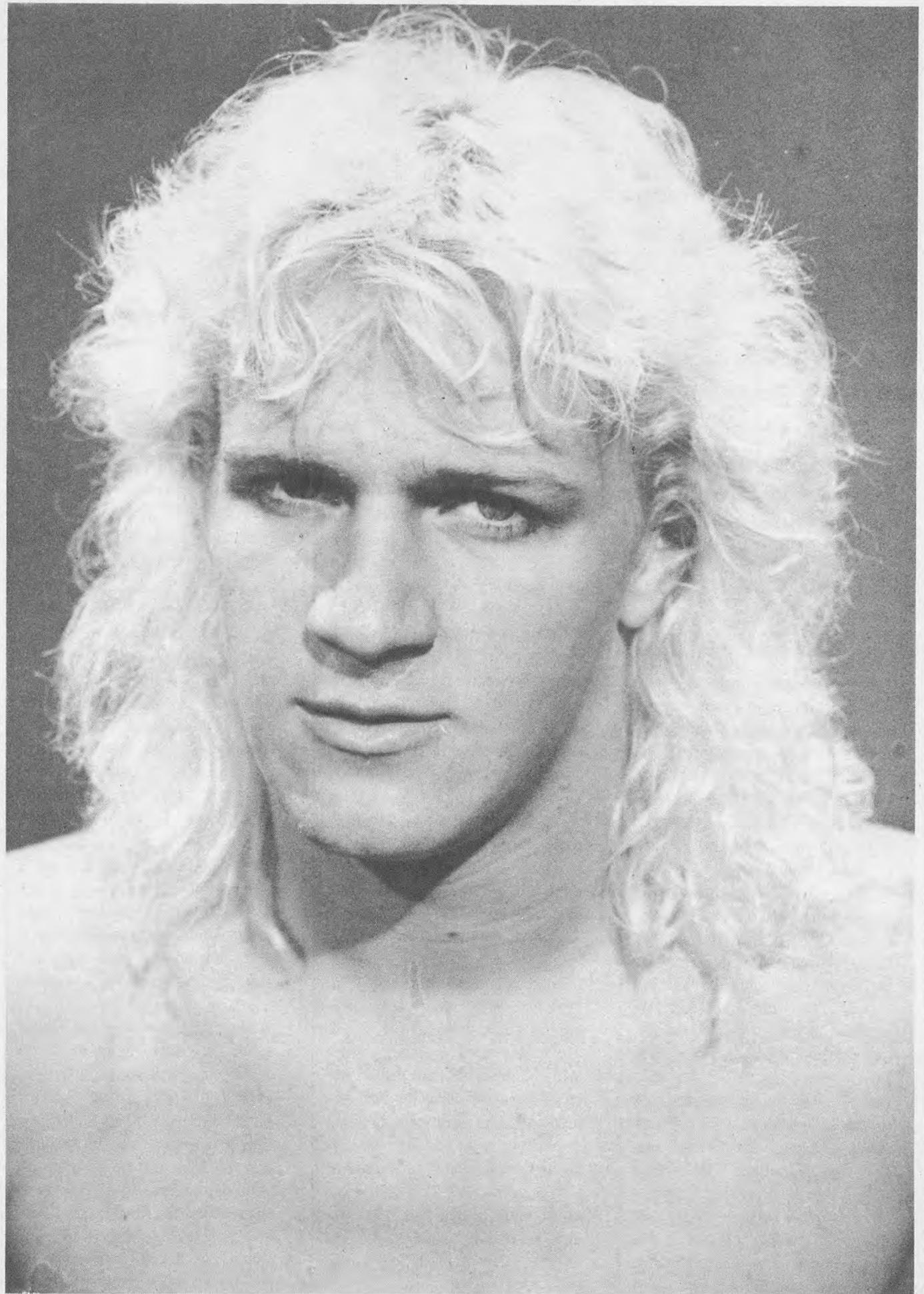
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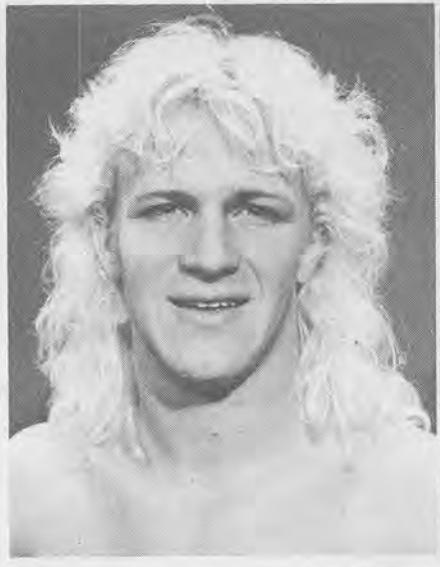
Q: Jeff, congratulations on your winning streak in the USWA and CWA during the past several months. I'm sure your fine performance has gone a long way toward soothing the bitterness you feel toward Travis.

A: Thanks for the kind words, Bob. But frankly, Travis still pretty much turns my stomach, even after all the wars we've had in the past few months. I mean, this was a guy that was just like a brother to me for years. I know it sounds like a cliche, but we were as close as any two men could ever be. We did just about everything together—we double-dated, went to sporting events, things like that. And now our friendship has totally evaporated. But that doesn't hurt nearly as bad as what someone else has been . . .

Q: Do you mean Jerry Lawler?

A: Exactly. Now, *there* was a man I really looked up to. Growing up here in Memphis, just about everybody I knew was absolutely in awe of this man. For almost two decades, Lawler represented everything that was good about professional wrestling. He was the one man that everybody in these parts could count on to get rid of whatever rulebreakers were terrorizing the area. Lawler was a big help to me when I was getting started in my career, too. He was always





“  
Don't call [Lawler] 'The King' anymore. As far as I'm concerned, he doesn't deserve that kind of honor.  
”

there if I needed instructions or advice. But now, all the man does is put me down during TV interviews and through the press. Now, I ask you, Bob, as an unbiased reporter: Why have all my friends abandoned me? What have I ever done to deserve this kind of treatment? It stinks, it really does.

Q: I don't think it's really anything you've done, Jeff. To me, it's really seems like outside factors that have changed Travis and Lawler. In Billy's case, I think the fault lies squarely on the shoulders of Skandor Akbar.

A: (pauses) You're probably right, and I'm sorry I snapped at you like that. I guess the promise of big money is enough to turn a lot of people's heads, and Travis has been no exception. It's really frightening, because the difference in Billy is like night and day. Just a year ago, he was soft-spoken and considerate, and he was one of the most solid scientific wrestlers you'd



Jarrett is brutally double-teamed by Billy Travis and Jerry Lawler, two enemies who were once his friends. He still has trouble believing they turned against him.

see anywhere. Now, he's completely different, like Akbar's controlling his mind or something. His wrestling style is a joke now. He's constantly using foreign objects like that guitar of his.

Q: That's for sure. In the matches you've had against Travis, he seems more interested in trying to cripple you than he is in simply trying to defeat you.

A: Yeah, I guess that's right. I think that Billy looks at me as his biggest rival because of our similar backgrounds. We're both about the same size, and we've got just about the same amount of experience. Akbar thinks that if Travis can beat me it will help Billy gain confidence, but I've got news for him—he's never gonna beat me as long as I can stand up for myself. Travis has tried everything. He's beat on me with that guitar, and he's bashed me across the face with brass knuckles, but he still hasn't come close to putting me away. As far as I'm concerned, he'll never be able to do it. With Travis, it means much more to me than just winning a series of matches. I've got to teach that punk a lesson that he'll never forget.

Q: What about Lawler? You've been quite vocal about facing him for his USWA title, but thus far you've only been able to meet him in tag team matches. Has the way Lawler has been putting off your challenges been frustrating for you?

A: Frustrating isn't the word. Lawler's another man that has changed so completely. It's hard to believe that this arrogant, repugnantly violent guy is the same man . . . well, like I said before, I used to look up to him. He's been really putting me down a lot lately, but every time I ask him for a championship match he puts it off. I think Lawler realizes that I may be the only man in the entire USWA that can beat him right now, so he's running scared.

Q: A match between you and Lawler would be very interesting. How would you go about beating "The King"?

A: First of all, don't call him "The King" anymore. As far as I'm concerned, he doesn't deserve that kind of honor. As for a match against him, the first thing I would do is ask the referee to search him completely. I can't remember the last time Lawler wrestled without

using a small chain that he carries in his boot or tights. Secondly, I'd probably take to the ropes as much as I could. As good a wrestler as Lawler obviously is, he's a proponent of the old-fashioned on-the-mat style, and he rarely leaves his feet. Personally, I'd use aerial tactics, and try to use my advantage in speed to keep him confused and off-guard. There's no doubt in my mind that I can cleanly pin Lawler. Now all I'm asking for is a chance to prove it.

**Q:** But how is your confidence level at this point? Obviously you're shook up about what's happened to Travis and Lawler. Are you in the right frame of mind to engage in title matches right now?

**A:** I think I'd be just fine, because all this controversy has only made me more determined to succeed. And besides, it's not like I've lost *all* my friends. Thank God for Matt Borne, man. Matty and I have won the USWA tag team title three times, and he's one guy I *know* will always be around if I need somebody to back me up. There's Bill Dundee, too. And I can't forget about Kerry Von Erich, one of

the greatest wrestlers of this or any other era. So I've still got some people I can depend on. I can't forget about how good all the fans have been to me, too. But getting over being abandoned by two close pals takes a long time. I'm starting to think the best way to do it is just beat both of them. And that's exactly what I've got my mind set on.

**Q:** It seems like you've got other enemies beside Lawler and Travis, though. You and Borne have had some ferocious battles against Robert Fuller and Brian Lee, the men who defeated you for the USWA tag team title.

**A:** Fuller's every bit as bad as those other guys are. They never would have beaten us for the tag title if Fuller hadn't been using a loaded boot throughout that match. Are you starting to see a pattern here? Fuller and his boot. Lawler and his chain. Travis and his guitar. These guys are getting away with murder. Frankly, I don't think the USWA officials are doing enough to stop it. Max Andrews, you're the president of the USWA, so I put it to you: Ban these foreign objects.



Lawler's assault on Jarrett is aided by Terrance Garvin. Jarrett says Lawler is afraid to defend the USWA title against him because he knows there's a good chance he'd lose.



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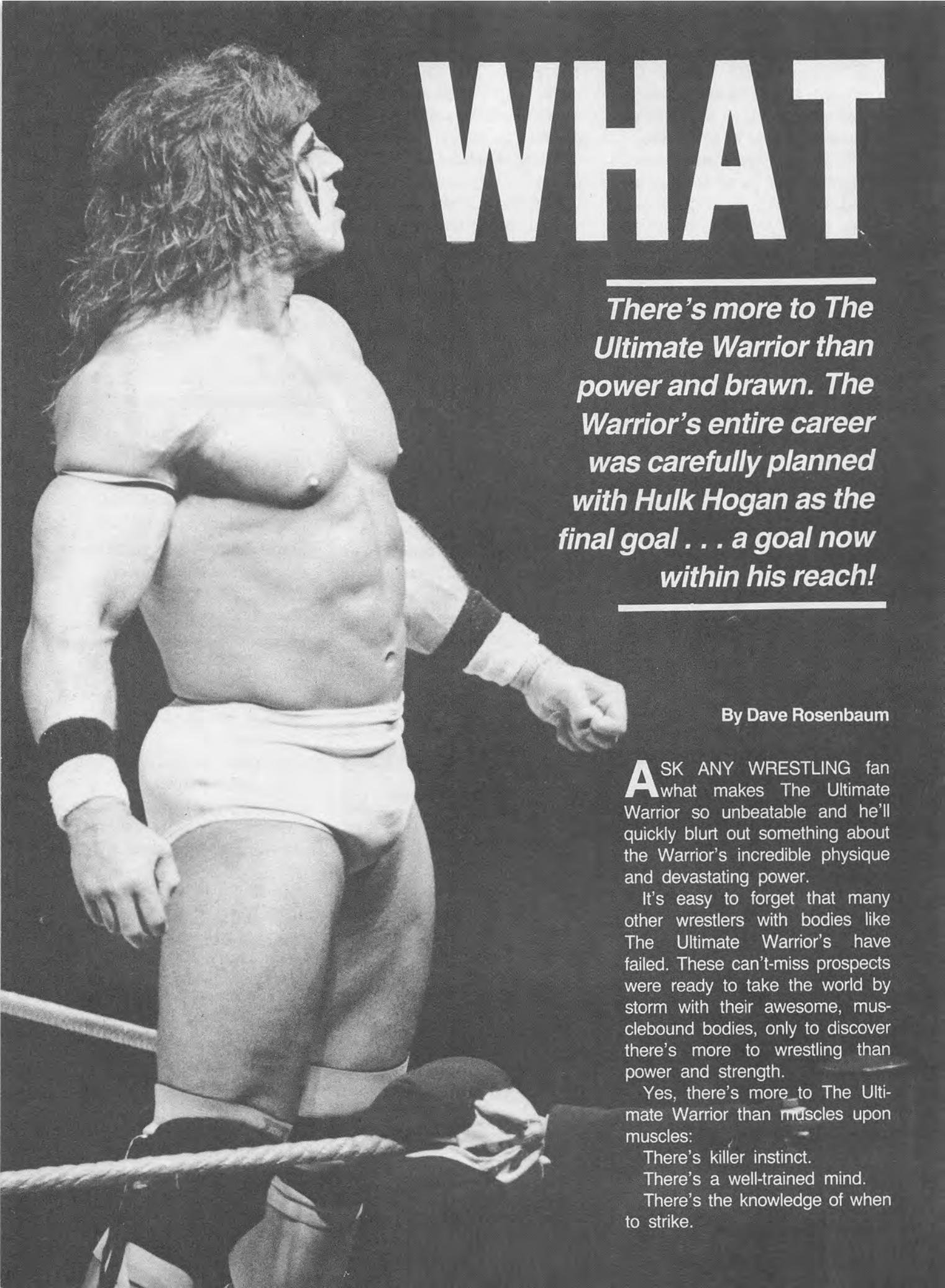
Fuller and his boot.  
Lawler and his chain.  
Travis and his guitar.  
These guys are getting  
away with murder.

”

With the right kind of legislation, there's no reason why the fans have to put up with this kind of crap anymore.

**Q:** Well said. You know, we haven't even gotten around to talking about how improved you are as a wrestler. When you started your career, a lot of people thought you were too small—you were 200 pounds—to be a success. Almost nobody makes those kinds of comments anymore. How does it feel to finally be established as a top competitor in the sport?

**A:** Well, it's really no big deal to me, because I never thought I had a handicap to begin with. It's not how big you are, it's how much fighting heart you've got. That's a factor that Lawler and Travis are going to find out about real soon. And believe me, I'm going to be USWA champion by the end of 1990. That's my goal, and there's no way anybody's gonna stop me.



# WHAT

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*There's more to The Ultimate Warrior than power and brawn. The Warrior's entire career was carefully planned with Hulk Hogan as the final goal . . . a goal now within his reach!*

---

By Dave Rosenbaum

**A**SK ANY WRESTLING fan what makes The Ultimate Warrior so unbeatable and he'll quickly blurt out something about the Warrior's incredible physique and devastating power.

It's easy to forget that many other wrestlers with bodies like The Ultimate Warrior's have failed. These can't-miss prospects were ready to take the world by storm with their awesome, musclebound bodies, only to discover there's more to wrestling than power and strength.

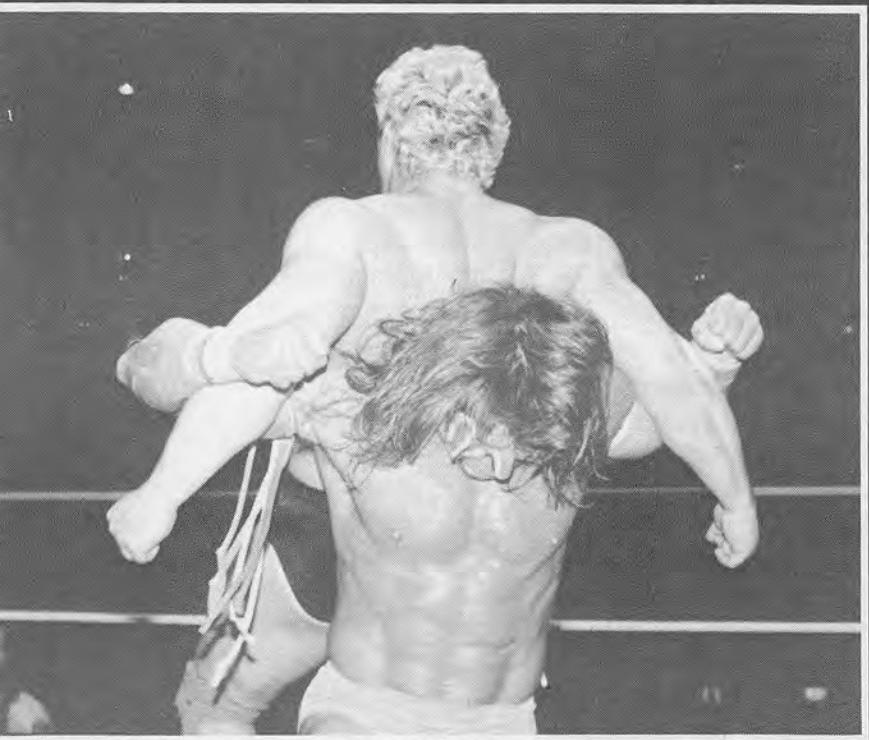
Yes, there's more to The Ultimate Warrior than muscles upon muscles:

There's killer instinct.

There's a well-trained mind.

There's the knowledge of when to strike.

# MADE THIS WARRIOR THE ULTIMATE FIGHTING MACHINE?



There's a willingness to put his body on the line when the situation necessitates it.

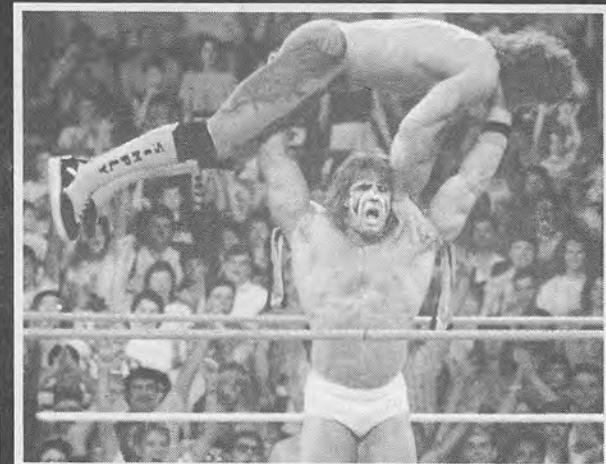
There's a game plan that's been in place since day one of his career.

Not one of these qualities has anything to do with muscles and weight-training. If it were that easy, we'd have hundreds of musclemen pouring out of every Gold's Gym and into the wrestling ring for great careers.

It's not that easy. The Warrior

is often criticized for his lack of scientific skills, but he has chosen a different route to success, a route that won him the WWF Intercontinental title and landed him the main event at WrestleMania VI against WWF World champion Hulk Hogan.

"The thing about the Warrior," said Chris Adams, who wrestled against the Warrior in the World Class area several years ago, "is he simply decided to concentrate on a different area of the game.



The Ultimate Warrior has dominated Dino Bravo (left), Rick Rude (above), and Greg Valentine (below) while demonstrating little scientific wrestling.



You know, there aren't too many musclemen in this sport with scientific skills, but there aren't too many scientific wrestlers with these unbelievable bodies. But the one-dimensional scientific wrestlers are never criticized while the one-dimensional muscle freaks always are. It makes no sense."

Red Bastien, the former AWA World tag team champion who helped train the Warrior, agreed with Adams.



As Dingo Warrior, Ultimate tested his skills against Kevin Von Erich (above). Wrestling veterans like Harley Race in the WWF (bottom) gave Warrior the confidence to wrestle for titles.

"You don't put a high-performance engine in a Toyota Corolla, and you don't put a four-cylinder in a Corvette," Bastien said. "You mold what you have. As for the Warrior, he has an instinct about the sport that's uncanny. He's almost like an animal in that he can sense his opponent's next move."

He can also sense what his next move should be. When he and Sting (then known as Flash) were members of Rick Bassman's Powerteam U.S.A., the Warrior (then known as Rock) decided they should leave Powerteam to strike out on their own.

When he and Sting were The Blade Runners in the UWF, the Warrior eventually decided it was time to break away from manager Eddie Gilbert and pursue a singles career. Eventually, the Warrior (then known as The Dingo Warrior) won the World Class Texas title, and the World Class tag team title with Lance Von Erich.

In Texas, the Warrior realized this his relationship with Gary Hart, Buzz Sawyer, and Matt Borne was potentially damaging to his career. He turned against this threesome and became one of the most popular wrestlers in Texas.

Finally, the Warrior's desire to wrestle in the WWF became overwhelming. Still, his first months in the federation reveal more about the mind behind the muscle.

Instead of immediately challenging Hogan or one of the WWF's other top stars, the Warrior paced himself. He started at the bottom, although WWF promoters were anxious to place him in feature matches from the outset. They were amazed by his physique, and physique is a number-one priority in the WWF.

The Warrior chose to wrestle against lower-level competition on small cards, where he could get acquainted with the WWF's style.

"There was never any doubt in anyone's mind what this guy had, but he wanted to do things the

right way," said one WWF promoter. "He didn't want to rush it and fall on his face, like so many others have. He was aware of how much different the WWF would be from any other federation he'd been in. You have to respect him for that."

Even when the Warrior started appearing on the big cards, he was careful about whom he wrestled.

He took on and beat Harley Race because he knew Race was a seven-time former NWA World champion with vast scientific skills. Beating Race proved that the Warrior could match up with a traditional wrestler.

He took on and beat Hercules Hernandez at WrestleMania IV. Beating Hernandez took the Warrior a few steps higher on the scale of WWF musclemen.

Finally, at SummerSlam '88, the Warrior won the Intercontinental title from The Honky Tonk Man. In that match, the Warrior displayed a different kind of strategy. He stormed Honky Tonk before the bell rang and put him away in seconds with a series of massive clotheslines.

The Warrior was shocked by Rick Rude and Bobby Heenan at WrestleMania V and lost the I-C title, but regained it five months later at SummerSlam '89. The Warrior learned a lesson there, too: Never take an opponent for granted, and always be on the lookout for Bobby Heenan.

With a wrestling education that has spanned nearly five years, it's no surprise that the Warrior was favored in some quarters to dethrone Hogan at WrestleMania VI.

His career has been designed with the WWF World title as the final goal. Every step has been painstakingly planned out. There hasn't been a misstep so far.

The Ultimate Warrior is the ultimate fighting machine, and he's destined to be the ultimate World champion. □



# THIS MONTH IN...

# The Wrestler



**HULK HOGAN'S** decade of greatness, part three: Hulkamania—the fall and rise!



**STING** provides an exclusive report on the **RIC FLAIR-LEX LUGER** Wrestle War '90 title match

## PLUS . . .

**IVAN KOLOFF** collides with **NIKITA KOLOFF . . . THE HORSEMEN'S** dirty secret: Why they *had* to say "yes" to **WOMAN . . . THE ROCKERS**—Wrestling's most innovative tag team. . . . A wild "Q & A" interview with **RICK & SCOTT STEINER**

All this and much more . . .  
in the June 1990 issue of  
*The Wrestler*

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# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



The maturing of **LEX LUGER**: How the "Total Package" became the people's choice



Why **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** is the one "friend" **HULK HOGAN** can trust

## PLUS . . .

FULL-COLOR pinup plus career bio of **RICK MARTEL . . . CONDEMNED!** Are **THE SKYSCRAPERS** beyond renovation? . . . After 20 years of beatings, **BOBBY HEENAN** still insists on wrestling! . . . Exclusive: Confessions of a referee . . . A very special "Press Conference" with new AWA World champion **MR. SAITO**

All this and much more . . .  
in the July 1990 issue of  
*Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

**ON SALE APRIL 24**

**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

**L**ESS THAN ONE year ago, Norman the Lunatic made his debut in the NWA under the management of Teddy Long. At that time, it seemed highly unlikely that this was a man who would ever be cheered by the fans.

And rightfully so. Norman was a seemingly uncontrollable 380-pound mass of insanity. Several preliminary wrestlers were crushed by this man's splash from the second rope. It appeared that the only way to keep Norman calm was for Long to dangle a large key in front of his face—a not-so-subtle threat of solitary confinement.

Unexpectedly, things started changing for Norman about six months ago. Tired of the constant verbal abuse he was taking from Long, Norman broke away from his unscrupulous manager. Alone for the first time, Norman started bringing toys and stuffed animals to the fans at ringside in a showing of goodwill. Almost immediately, the fans started showering this now-lovable giant with affection.

Meanwhile, Norman couldn't conceal his affection for Woman. Late last year, Norman started coming out to ringside during Doom's matches (Woman managed Doom at the time) and took Polaroid photos of the beautiful brunette. But when Norman tried to present Woman with a portrait he painted of her, he was attacked by Kevin Sullivan, the veteran rulebreaker.

Since that time, Sullivan has hounded Norman in NWA arenas all across the country. They've battled in Texas death matches and in bouts where falls count anywhere in the building. Now,

# ONE ON ONE



*"You're mad because I beat you at Clash of the Champions. Hey, I beat you fair and square. If you're mad, I'm sorry, but I won."*

—Norman the Lunatic

the malicious Sullivan has recruited Cactus Jack and Buzz Sawyer to aid him in wiping out the giant.

Since this feud shows no signs of abating, it's the perfect time to bring these adversaries together . . . "One on One."

#### NORMAN THE LUNATIC:

Okay, we're here to talk "One on One," and I'm one, and you're one, and at Clash of the Champions X I won, and at Wrestle War '90 I won, and . . .

#### KEVIN SULLIVAN:

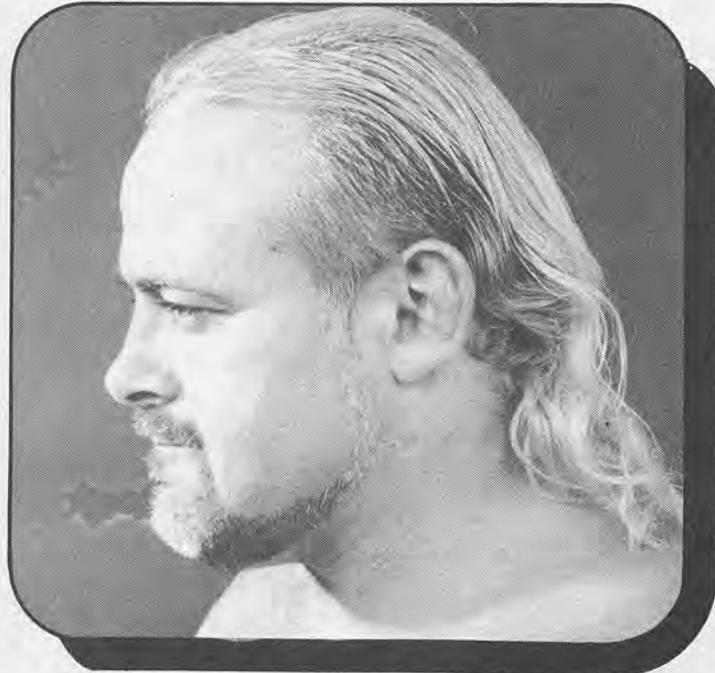
Oh, why don't you shut up, you incoherent bag of flesh! You're an affront to real athletes everywhere, and that's probably the biggest reason why I hate you so much. Real wrestlers get up in the morning and train as hard as they can to become great. The

only thing you probably do is stuff as many Cocoa Puffs down your throat as you can hold. You're a sick man, Norman, and while insanity is a trait I usually admire, this time I'm out to end your worthless career. And I've got a couple of friends in Cactus Jack and Buzz Sawyer who are going to help me do it.

**NTL:** Cactus Jack, yeah, I know him. My teddy bear friends all know him. Ain't he the guy I pinned at Wrestle War? Yeah, that's him. I thought he sounded familiar. And hey—what's wrong with Cocoa Puffs? You gotta start every day with a good breakfast. Nothing like a good bowl of cereal and a couple of Pop Tarts to get me going.

**KS:** God, what an oaf you are. You know, you remind me of another

# N ONE



*"Shut up, you incoherent bag of flesh! You're an affront to real athletes everywhere. I'm out to end your worthless career."*

—Kevin Sullivan

imbecile I had in my stable a couple of years ago, an idiot by the name of Rick Steiner. He was a guy who was a great athlete, but he refused to listen to what I told him to do, so I dropped him like a lead balloon. You remind me of Steiner, except that you've got the same amount of brains—none—and none of the natural ability. I can put up with that, since you're certainly no threat to someone like me. But when you got personal with a fine person like Woman, you stepped over the line. Now you're in my territory, and you're not leaving without learning a serious lesson.

NTL:I don't . . . I don't . . . I don't understand. I was always nice to Woman. I painted her a nice picture, I took some nice pictures of

her with my camera. What's so bad about that? What's so bad about giving her a present, giving her that picture I painted? Why'd you have to ruin that picture? I spent a lot of time on it.

KS: Big deal. It's about time somebody tried to snap you into reality. You shouldn't go around bugging a person like Woman, because she's obviously way, way out of your league. If you ask me, the NWA's out of your league, too. Better get out now, before me or Jack or Buzz get the better of you. You should just go off to your sandbox and stay put, you big jerk.

NTL:I still can't figure it out. I mean, are you mad at me for painting a picture of Woman? Are you mad at me for beating Cactus Jack at

Wrestle War? Are you . . . oh, now I get it. You're mad because I beat you at the Clash of the Champions in Texas. That's why you're mad. Hey, I beat you fair and square, and that's what wrestling is all about, and if you're mad, I'm sorry, but I won.

KS: You call *that* a victory? You hit me over the head with a toilet seat in the ladies room of the Memorial Coliseum! I know in that match that falls counted anywhere in the building, but the result of that match was an assault to the intelligence of fine wrestlers everywhere. I owe you one, Norman, and just wait and see if I don't flush your supposed *career* down the toilet.

NTL:I like my career, Kevin. I have a lot of fun wrestling, I have a lot of friends and fans, and everybody is being real nice to me. Everybody but you, I mean. Hey, maybe you'd like one of my teddy bears? I might be able to spare one for you.

KS: I don't want your teddy bear. I don't want *any* of your toys. I don't want you anywhere near me, unless I can get my hands around your throat, that is. I've battled a lot of wrestlers in my time, men like Steiner, Dusty Rhodes, Barry Windham. The greats of the sport. Men who have never forgotten the wrath of Kevin Sullivan. You're making light of me now, but I guarantee you that you will never, ever forget me once I'm through with you, you simpleton. Get it through your thick head. You better watch out for me, and don't forget about Jack and Sawyer, too. If I don't cripple you, one of them will. Look forward to it.

NTL:You know, I look forward to *every* new day. I like me. And I like being a wrestler. And I like it that the fans like me, too. And I like it that you agree with me, that a good breakfast is important. I'm gonna go have a bowl of cereal right now. Hope there's a prize at the bottom.

KS: Oh, you're going to get a prize, Norman. A really big one, too. Enjoy those Cocoa Puffs, because they may be the last bowl you ever have. □

## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

A similar situation exists in the tag team division, with a surplus of teams and only one championship. An Intercontinental tag team title to supplement the World tag team title would enhance WWF tag team competition considerably.

JIM BRADLEY  
Jackson, NJ

### BEWARE, RICK!

Rick Martel, I can't believe you have the guts to go around calling



Rick "The Model" Martel has turned off a lot of people with his arrogance. Reader Tammy Baraw can't wait to see Brutus Beefcake cut Martel's hair.

yourself a model. If Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake gets his hands on you, you won't have *any* hair left on your head!

TAMMY BARAW  
Newport, VT

### WWF OBLIVION

I enjoyed the story about various WWF stars in your April '90 issue ("Lost In The Shuffle 1990: Five WWF Stars Who Face Oblivion"), but

there's somebody you left out: Dusty Rhodes. After Randy Savage kicks his butt, that fat bag of wind will just be a fading memory.

EDDIE LAWSON  
Binghamton, NY

The Powers of Pain lost in the shuffle in the WWF? No way! I'll be willing to bet that 1990 is the biggest year yet for Warlord and Barbarian. Just wait—they'll be World tag team champions yet!

BARBARA MARKS  
Philadelphia

I don't think you should have included Curt Hennig as a WWF wrestler lost in the shuffle. He's come very close to defeating Hulk Hogan on several occasions. Give him a few more chances, and he'll win that title. He's



Curt Hennig, with Lanny Poffo at his side, will win the WWF title. All he needs are a few more opportunities, in reader David Myers' opinion.

just figuring out Hogan's style and subtleties, that's all. Long live "Mr. Perfect"!

DAVID MYERS  
Minneapolis

Regarding your "Lost In The Shuffle 1990" feature in the April issue:

I wish the entire WWF would get lost!

GLENN ROBINS  
Brookfield, CT

### FLAIR VS. HOGAN

I am writing this letter to quiet all of those people who are constantly comparing Ric Flair to Hulk Hogan.

Give me a break! How can people possibly compare Flair to Hogan? Flair is one of the greatest wrestlers of all time!

Let's look at the titles held by both  
(Continued on page 48)

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# Inside Wrestling

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 February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.  
 March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.  
 May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.  
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 May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Stein-er, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.  
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 46)

men: Hogan has held only the WWF World title. Flair, on the other hand, has held numerous titles, including the U.S. title, the NWA World tag team title, and—as we all know—is a six-time NWA World heavyweight champion.

May the 1990s be as good to Ric Flair as the 1980s were.

TINA TISONE  
Canon City, CO

## GOODBYE, STAMPEDE

As the '90s are beginning, here in Calgary an era is ending: Stampede Wrestling, as run by Stu Hart, is over.

My first live card was Stampede. I remember it perfectly. I remember the excitement, the people, and the joy. Here in Stampede I saw Davey Boy Smith, The Dynamite Kid, and the breakup of The British Bulldogs. I saw a title change hands live for the first time. I saw Bret Hart peeking around the dressing room door. I saw Stu Hart, a legend in this sport.

I will miss many things about Stampede. I will miss the wrestlers and the comfort of "my" seat. I will miss a young boy named Rennie and a young lady named Maryanne, who befriended me and said hello every week. I will miss the camaraderie of my friends, and cheering for the guys nobody else does.

I saw a one-hour time-limit draw between Davey Boy Smith and Johnny Smith that was the most incredible match I've ever seen in my life.

There is a new wrestling federation starting in this territory, the Canadian National Wrestling Association. But it won't be Stampede. It won't ever be the same.

I find myself crying as I write this. An era is over, and I mourn it. I will attend the new cards and cheer the new people. But I will miss Stampede and everyone there.

Goodbye, Stu. We'll miss you.

D. JEFFREY  
Calgary, Alberta □



Matches like this one between Chris Benoit and Johnny Smith were a part of the Stampede action that reader D. Jeffrey will miss.

# BACK ISSUES OF



**February 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

**April 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorf, Hart.

**June 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

**July 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

**August 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbysko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

**October 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

**November 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

**December 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

**January 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

**February 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

**June 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

**July 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

**August 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

**October 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Billy Jack, Jerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

**November 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

**January 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

**February 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

**April 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

**June 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**November 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

**December 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorf, Williams & DiBiase.

**January 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

**February 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

**April 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair, Wendell Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

**May 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

**June 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

**July 1986/COLOR PINUP:** King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

**August 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

**October 1986/COLOR PINUP:** John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

**November 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

**January 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

**February 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorf.

**April 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dinga, WWF Housecleaning.

**May 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

**June 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

**July 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

**August 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

**October 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

**November 1987/COLOR PINUP:** George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

**January 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbysko.

**February 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

**April 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerr, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

**May 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

**June 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

**July 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

**August 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerr von Erich.

**October 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

**November 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

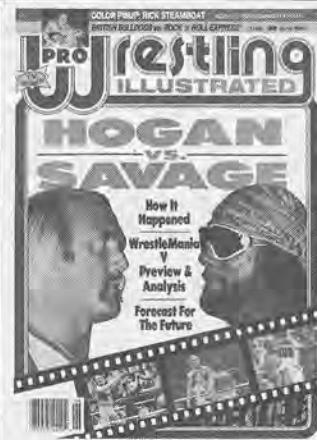
**December 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan, Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

**January 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham, Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

**February 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

**April 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steiner, Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

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JUNE 1989

**June 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbysko, Rhodes.

**July 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper, Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

**August 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger, Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

**October 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Rude, Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

**November 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair, Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

**December 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Jimmy Snuka, Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

**January 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Sid Vicious, Ultimate, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

**February 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Bret Hart, Lex Luger, Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

**April 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

**May 1990/COLOR PINUP:** The Great Muta, Hulk Hogan, Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 8)

The year was 1987. Zenk wandered from federation to federation after leaving the WWF, while Martel teamed with Santana and won the WWF World tag team title. That only seemed to prove Zenk was the weak link in the Martel-Zenk duo.

"Believe me, I had some doubts there, too," Zenk said. "You know, they won the title not more than a few months after I left. That was probably the most difficult time of my career, far more difficult than the weeks after I left the WWF."

So, Zenk worked hard to improve his skills and let people know he was still around. And he did improve. In February 1989, Zenk entered a battle royal for the vacant AWA World tag team title. It came down to Zenk and Larry Zbyszko.

"I thought the title was mine," Zenk said. "The thing was, Zbyszko hadn't done anything the entire match, while I was spent. When it ended, I was crushed. I couldn't believe that Zbyszko, not me, was champion."

Zenk stayed in the AWA for a short time afterward and received a few rematches before receiving the biggest phone call of his life.

"It was from the NWA people," Zenk said. "They wanted me to sign a contract. Apparently, they had been scouting me all along and they were on a youth kick. You know, me, Sid Vicious, Scott Hall, and Brian Pillman all came in at about the same time. It was like a dream come true, and I grabbed the opportunity."

Whether by design or coincidence, Zenk and Pillman met in the NWA offices on the day both men were in Atlanta for an interview. From that moment, Zenk and Pillman became close friends. Very quickly, it was obvi-



1987: Tom Zenk headlocks Paul Orndorff as Rick Martel awaits a tag. Since his days as Martel's partner, Zenk has improved: He now holds the U.S. tag title with Brian Pillman.

ous their styles complemented one another. They formed a team.

"We clicked immediately," Zenk said. "Brian has such a great aerial attack, and I'm pretty solid with the scientific moves. I must admit, a lot of that I learned from Martel."

"But, you know, I don't really think I owe Martel anything. Everything he did he did for himself. He wanted to win a tag team title, so he molded me to his liking. It took me years to break out of many of the bad habits he taught me."

Martel is now one of the most hated wrestlers in the WWF. His alliance with Tito Santana ended in bloody warfare. Martel doesn't have a title.

Zenk does.

"Yeah, that makes me happy," Zenk said. "But what makes me even happier is the way Brian's been a good friend and the way the fans have supported us. You know, that match against Garvin and Hayes wasn't easy."

Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes are former NWA World tag team champs, and approached the final round of the U.S. tag team title tournament as a must-win. But it was also a must-win for Zenk and Pillman, who knew what kind of

opportunity they had.

"These are opportunities you must take advantage of because there's no guarantee you'll ever get the opportunity again," Zenk said. "I've learned that in the past. Martel and I had several title shots, but we blew every one. Eventually, the title shots came less and less often."

Zenk, however, fought one of the most brilliant matches of his career. The "Z-Man's" scientific maneuvers were flawless; Pillman's aerial tactics were sublime. When Pillman caught Garvin with a flying bodypress, Zenk had his first major title.

"You know, I've had a lot of great thrills in my life, but this was the greatest," Zenk said. "Martel once told me that being champion is the most incredible feeling, it's a feeling worth waiting and working for. Well, he had to be right about something."

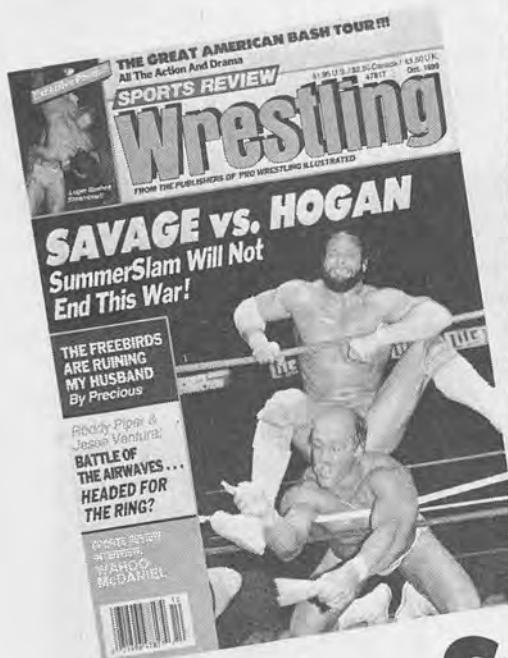
Zenk took another sip of his drink and looked up. "You know what the best part is?" Zenk asked. "It's having Brian as a friend and knowing that I did things the right way. You know, in this sport, it's still possible to do things the right way and achieve your goals. I hope people realize that's what this victory means." □

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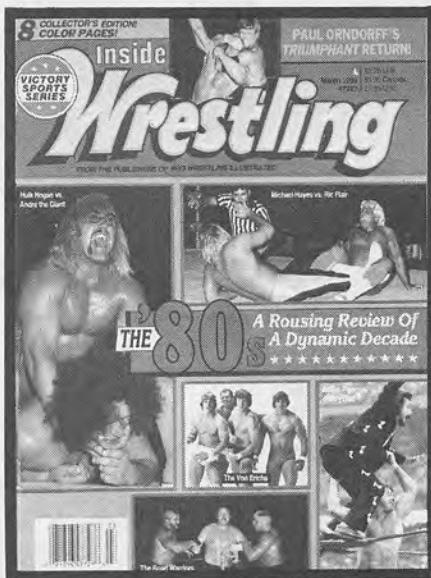
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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

carnival-crowding, comic-book-faced, cash-craving caricature.

Speaking of which . . .

**A Question of Lineage.**

"Macho Man" to "Macho King"? The quick ascension of Randy Savage to the Macho Throne confirms the adage, "Uneasy is the head that wears the crown."

As "Macho Man," Savage managed to capture the WWF championship and the heart of

Elizabeth, arguably the prettiest thing to ever grace a wrestling ring.

The only thing macho about "King" Savage is his resemblance to the '70s disco group, The Village People. In his royal robes you can almost hear him singing, "Macho, macho man, I want to be a macho man," a refrain that should remind the "King" of past triumphs.



As the "Macho Man," Randy Savage won both WWF singles championships. As the "Macho King," he wears a crown that few respect.

**The Ultimate Mumbler.** "Mmrphmm archg grropsxa," hissed The Ultimate Warrior during his *Main Event* interview. "Rweqqq arrrddh ashicvv vbbnity!" Do you agree with that, readers?

If you ask me, I think he's full of crap.

**Okay, Class, Repeat After Me: One, Two, Three.** For a man whose good fortune is owed to a 14-second 10-count, Buster Douglas sure doesn't know how to return a favor. Buster's pin count on Randy Savage during *Main Event*'s main event never approached the required three seconds. Douglas was understandably excited, being thrust into the ring when chief referee Dave Hebner was knocked out.

Not that Hebner has been much better, giving Hogan four- and five-second pin counts—which, for a man of Hogan's superhuman recuperative powers, is an eternity. Can't anyone count anymore?

Plus, it was inevitable that a confrontation between Douglas and Hogan or Savage would occur. Douglas' inexperience made him too inviting a target for the loser to ignore.

Unfortunately for Savage, big Buster couldn't ignore the dropped guard that made Savage an equally inviting target.

**NOTE:** When the editors allowed me to interview Bobo Brazil recently, they threw me a bone with plenty of meat still on it. The interview led to a story that appears in the Summer 1990 issue of our sister publication *Wrestling 90*, now available on newsstands everywhere. It was impossible, however, to cover Bobo's entire five-decade career in the space allotted. In next month's "Insider," I'll finish the Portrait of an Enduring Legend, Bobo's story told in his own words and a few of my own. □

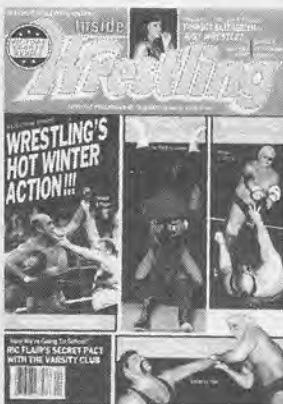
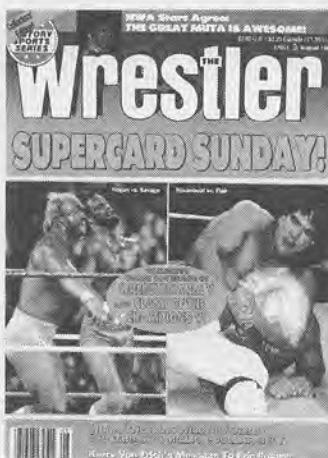
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**◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #2**

A dynamic special section in the April 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling* offered four pages of FULL-COLOR coverage of: The Survivor Series, SuperClash III, Battlestarr 88, and Clash of the Champions—Season's Beatings. Plus, an in-depth analysis places all these cards in historical perspective.

**◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #3**

The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.

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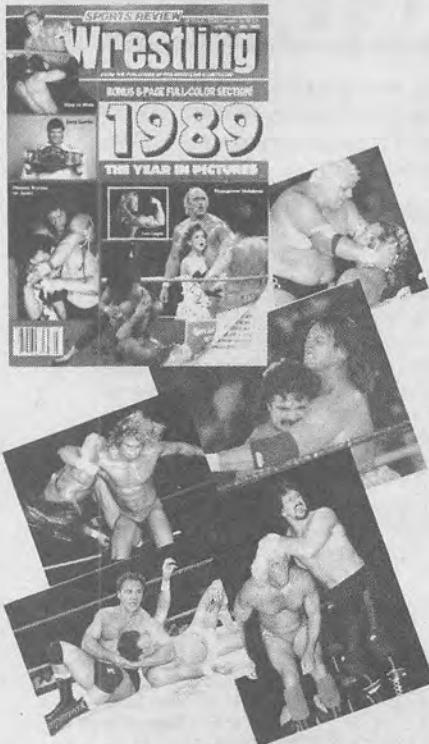
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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)



Magnificent Mimi got her shot at Sexton's title, but fell short. Hunter believes the LPWA's success may hinge on whether they receive enough advertiser support.

segments.

Ultimately, the success of the LPWA may lie in the same hands that contributed to the success of the ladies golf and tennis tours. Which is why I traveled to a luncheon in Philadelphia to hear the announcement of this summer's induction of Joseph Culman III into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Who? What? Why?

Culman is a dubious character in the history of professional tennis. As Chairman Emeritus of Philip Morris Inc., the country's leading pushers of cancerettes, Culman pushed for sponsorship of a Virginia Slims Women's Tennis Tour back in the early '70s. "I am proud of the firm's support of sports, especially the sponsorship of women's tennis," he said. "At the time [before Virginia

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Misty Blue Simmes and Linda Dallas continue their long-running feud in the LPWA.

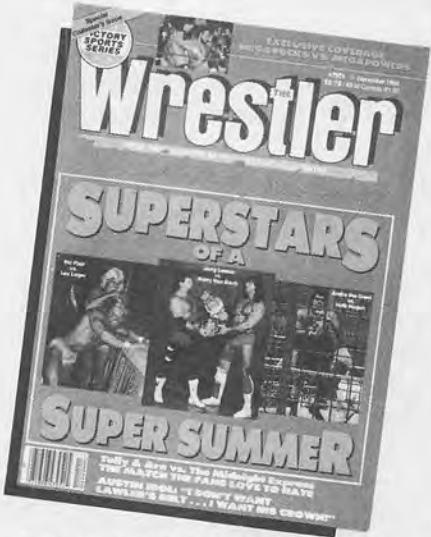
Slims], women were getting the short end of the stick, receiving barely 10 percent of the prize money that the men received."

For putting Chrissie and Martina and Steffi on equal footing with their male counterparts, Culman will be inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame. I wanted to ask him if there was any possibility of the LPWA receiving some much-needed corporate dough (talk about fabulous moolah!), but he escaped just as a contingent of anti-smoking forces were ready to barrage him with questions and accusations.

I agree with Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Lewis W. Sullivan, who has lashed out against sporting events who accept sponsorship from tobacco companies. Beer, of course, is not without its critics, but if a wrestling mat with the LPWA's current corporate sponsor, Pabst Blue Ribbon, will keep the LPWA afloat until it can generate more advertisers, I say write it off as a necessary evil.

If it's good enough for The Rolling Stones, Steve Winwood, and Eric Clapton, it's good enough for the LPWA.

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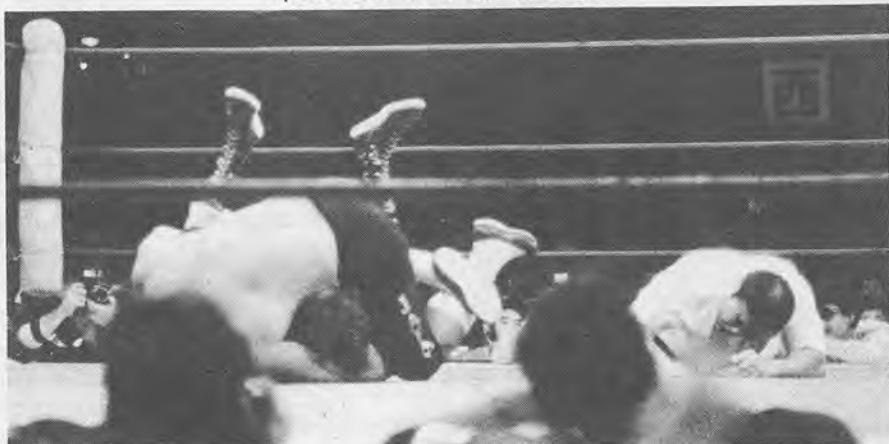
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## SAITO VS. ZBYSZKO

(Continued from page 29)



Saito rolls up Zbyszko for the pin (above). The former champion cries foul and demands an immediate rematch (below). Saito says he'll wrestle Zbyszko anytime, anywhere.



match, but I wasn't going to let him," Saito said. "I know Zbyszko's game because I've been there myself. I knew exactly what he'd stoop to and exactly what was going through his mind at every moment."

Of course, that's exactly what Sammartino contended would happen. As the match wore on, it became apparent that Saito would be the new champion.

Finally, after 14 minutes 29 seconds of Saito dominance, Zbyszko was doomed. Saito caught Zbyszko in a reverse neckbreaker, then turned it into a rolling cradle for the pin.

"He was so weakened that he couldn't even try to get out of it," Saito said. "I beat him fair and square using my own ability, no cheating, and

that's what felt best of all. The fans of the AWA can be certain that I will treat this title with honor."

Still, there is always the possibility that Saito will return to his evil ways. As Sammartino said . . . well, try and forget what Sammartino said.

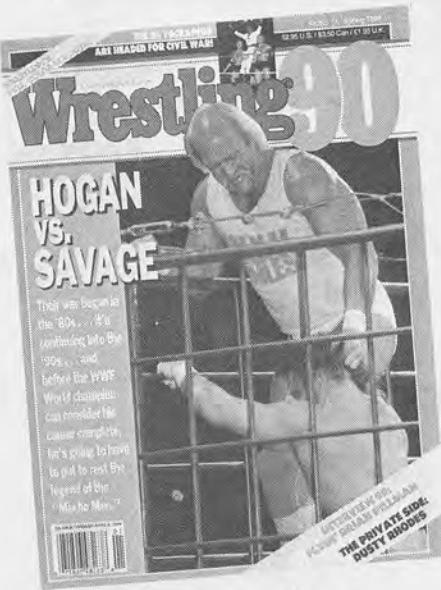
The facts of wrestling are that rule-breakers don't always remain rule-breakers, and fan favorites aren't always fan favorites. The fans have now embraced Saito, and he, in turn, has embraced them.

Whether Saito does justice to the belt and the tradition of the title depends on whether all of the evil has been purged from his soul. Thus far, Saito is looking very good, indeed.

And Larry Zbyszko is looking very frustrated. □

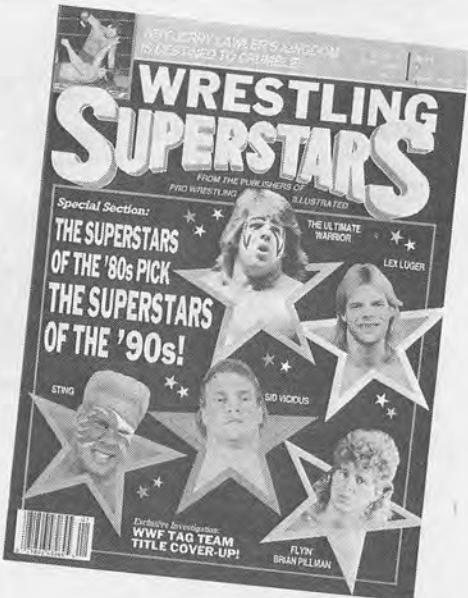
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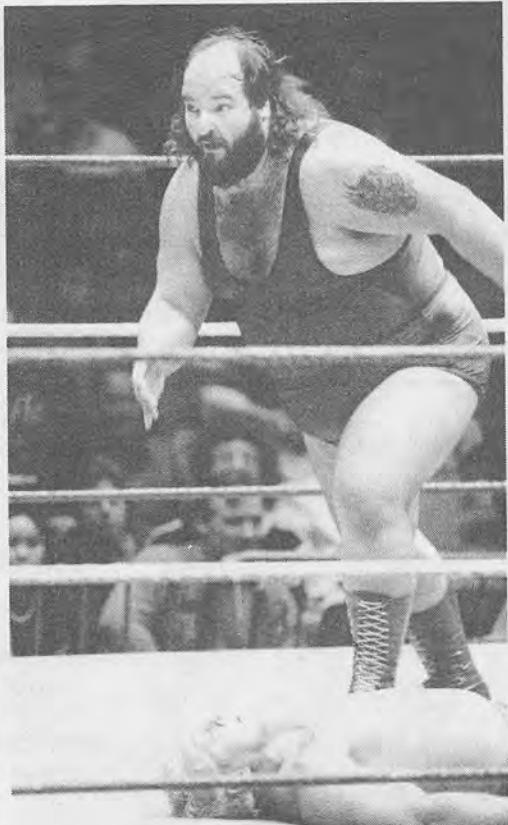
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## EARTHQUAKE

(Continued from page 31)



Earthquake pulls Garvin off the ropes (above) and gets ready to deliver his big finisher (right). Garvin suffered so much punishment in his match with Earthquake, he needed to be taken out of the ring on a stretcher (below).



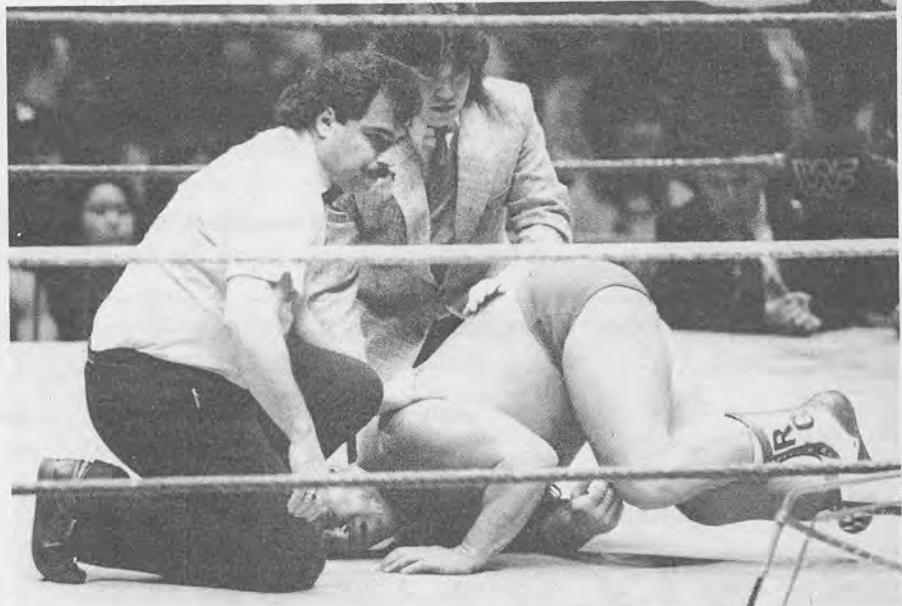
few months, Hart's stable has floundered. So when Dino Bravo moved into contention for the Intercontinental title, Hart wanted to keep him in contention. So, he brought in Earthquake as Bravo's enforcer.

He turned out to be much more than that. At the Royal Rumble, Earthquake eliminated two men before he was knocked over the ropes. It was a quick but impressive major-card debut for Earthquake.

Nearly a month later in Detroit, Earthquake got involved in Bravo's match against Ultimate Warrior on NBC's *Main Event*. Earthquake ran into the ring and helped Bravo double-team Warrior. Finally, Warrior was saved by Hogan, who declared he didn't want anyone to ruin Warrior for WrestleMania VI.

Earthquake was certainly capable of ruining the Warrior.

In fact, there might not be a



more frightening individual in the WWF. Few wrestlers want to kill their opponents. Earthquake, at the very least, wants them crippled.

"It's his way of making a mark," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "This is his fastest way up the WWF ladder. Instead

of taking a few months for each opponent, he's sending them to the hospital and going on to the next victim."

Check out this itinerary of horror:

- Miami: Earthquake uses three giant splashes to crush Mark Young, who is carried out of

the ring on a stretcher.

• Ft. Myers, Florida: Earthquake demolishes Jim Evans.

• Oakland, California: Having mauled the preliminary wrestlers, Earthquake goes on to more challenging fare. He takes less than five minutes to destroy veteran Terry Taylor.

In all three cases, Earthquake's opponent left the ring in far worse condition than when he entered it. That's what Earthquake does. He doesn't merely beat men, he alters their physical structure.

Hart is delighted with Earthquake's disposal methods. Bravo, too, is a better, more secure, wrestler with Earthquake at his side.

It all adds up to danger. Earthquake hasn't yet cracked the WWF Top 10, but that only seems to be a matter of time.

He handles every opponent the same way. It doesn't matter if it's Mark Young or former NWA World champion Ron Garvin. Everyone is mortal in the eyes of this incredible living, breathing, boulder from hell.

"It will be interesting to see what happens when he gets to the point of wrestling Hogan or Warrior," Muraco said. "You know, a lot of wrestlers have looked great and invincible until they wrestle Hogan. Then it's a different story."

Never, however, has a newcomer done so much damage to the WWF roster. Curt Hennig's climb to the top was slow and methodical. The Ultimate Warrior, too, took a gradual, measured road to the main event at WrestleMania VI.

The Earthquake is an unnatural force with incredible strength and size. He uses his size to cripple. His mind directs his body with one order: destroy.

And as with any natural disaster, all the WWF can do is sit back and hope the damage isn't too devastating. □

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## STING

(Continued from page 35)



Sting thought he could trust Arn Anderson, but Arn, being a Horseman, had no qualms about attacking Sting at Flair's request.

get at the Horsemen, but was pulled away from the cage by NWA security officials and several wrestlers. Sting first hurt his knee when he unsuccessfully tried to scale the cage a second time.

After Arn pinned Dragon Master, ending the match, Flair left the ring and attacked Sting. The two men brawled all over the arena floor before order was restored.

Sting's knee wasn't seriously injured, however, until an incident nearly an

hour later in the parking lot. When Sting walked through the parking lot and looked for his car, the Horsemen were waiting for him.

"Think we knew about his knee?" Arn cackled. "Look, the Horsemen don't miss a step. I saw the way he was favoring the knee a bit after the match, after Flair roughed him up a bit, and I told my buddies that we could do some serious damage to that young clown."

"I guess that's when the most seri-

ous damage was done," said Sting. "Maybe I would've missed only a few days with a strained knee, but they kept on pounding it. Some people have suggested I take legal action, but I'd rather handle it on my own, in my own way, in my own good time."

Naturally, Sting predicts a speedy recovery. He is anxious to return to the ring as quickly as possible.

"I've always been a fast healer, and I'm going to be especially quick this time," Sting said. "The Horsemen won't get away with what they did."

Doctors caution, however, that Sting could risk permanent injury by returning too quickly. The surgery to reconnect the tendons holding Sting's kneecap in place was successful. Thankfully, the injury most likely isn't career-threatening.

And that's where you, the fans, come in.

For the next several months, Sting will need to be encouraged by your support. Already, thousands of cards and letters have flowed into the NWA's offices in Atlanta. Fans are desperate for information about Sting's condition.

"I'm touched by their support," Sting said. "This just goes to prove the rewards of loyalty and playing by the rules. Flair and his buddies should start taking notes."

These are times of uncertainty for Sting, but they are also the easiest times of his recovery.

"I've been told that at the start is when Sting can expect to see the most progress," said NWA Executive Vice President Jim Herd. "There's an initial period when the body's healing process is very rapid. Of course, since the progress is being made so quickly, it's very good for the patient's psychological attitude."

"It's fascinating how mind and body work together in these cases," adds NWA commentator Jim Ross, who has closely monitored the Sting situation. "The doctors have explained to me that Sting's progress will begin

## MAGNUM T.A. REMEMBERS: "THE THRILL, THE FRUSTRATION . . ."

On October 14, 1986, Magnum T.A.'s Porsche crashed into a utility pole. His wrestling career instantly came to an end.

It could have been worse.

"I could have died," Magnum said. "But look at me now. I can walk, I can use my arms, I'm in pretty decent shape considering what happened. I can't wrestle anymore,



but there's more to life than wrestling. I have good friends and good family."

Instead of looking back in horror on the accident and the ensuing weeks of uncertainty (Would he live? Would he walk again? Would he be crippled forever?), Magnum has one lasting memory of October 1986:

"I remember the fans," Magnum said. "I remember how great they were to me, the thousands of cards and phone calls I got. Every day, the public relations people in the hospital would come up with a stack of cards and they'd tell me how many phone calls I'd gotten. When I saw how concerned people were about me, I knew I had to beat this thing. I knew I had to walk again.

"I remember the thrill of being able to walk to the ring at the second Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament, in April 1987. It was a slow walk, I was leaning kind of hard on my cane, and the fans gave me the loudest welcome I've ever had. Tears came to my eyes. Then Dusty [Rhodes] and Nikita [Koloff] won the Cup and dedicated it to me. Man, it was almost too much to take.

"See, sometimes good comes out of even the worst things. The fans, my friends, they were responsible for my miracle. They were responsible for that day in April 1987, maybe the greatest day of my life. I'll never be able to thank them enough."

—Bill Apter

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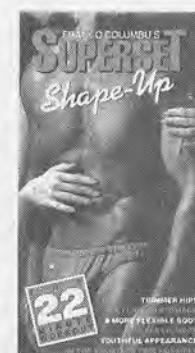
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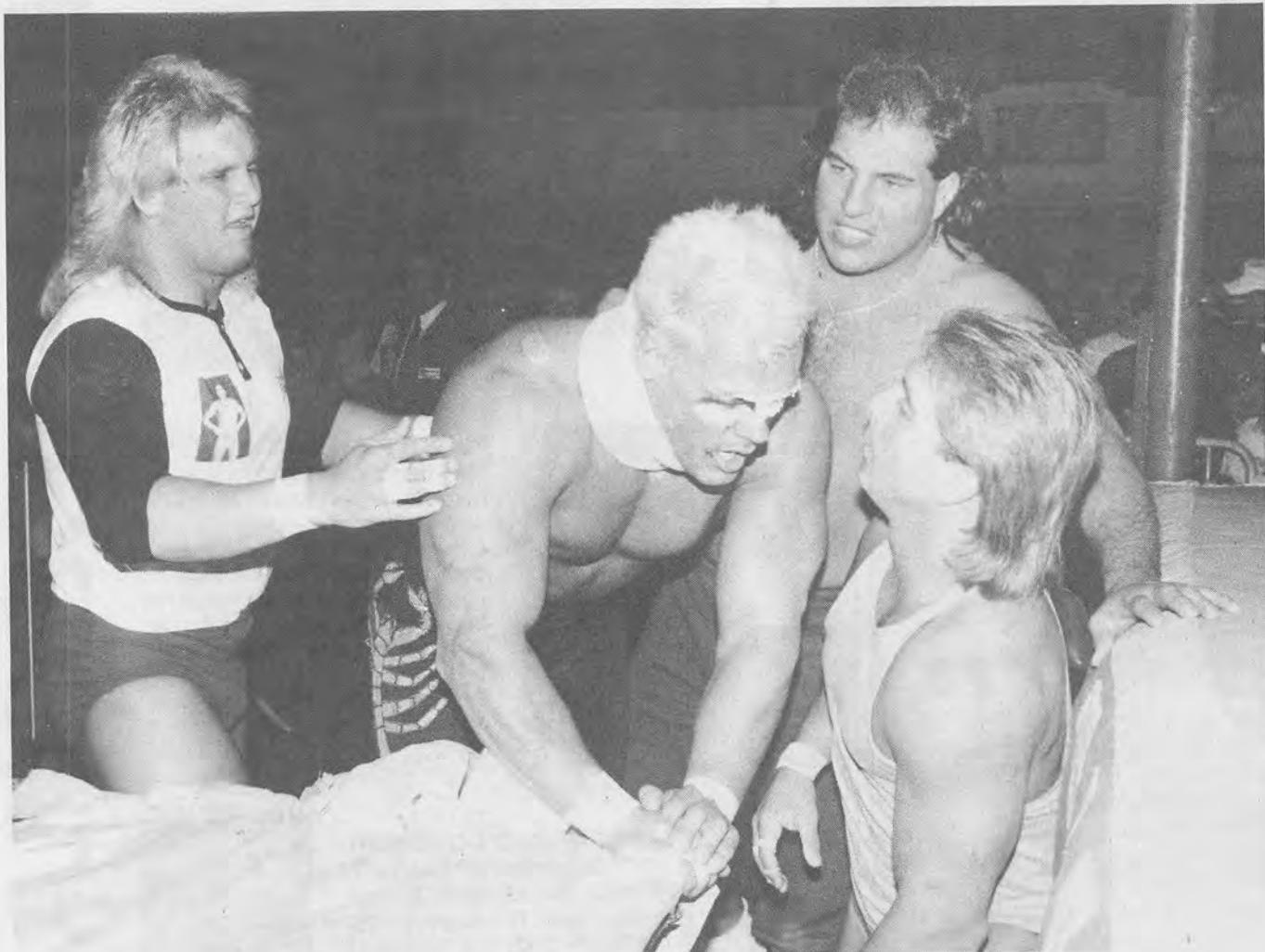
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(Continued on page 62)

## STING

(Continued from page 61)



The "Stinger" has been hurt before, (he suffered a neck injury in October 1988) but he never experienced anything as serious as his recent knee injury. On the road back to recovery, Sting will need all the fan support he can get.

to slow after the first two or three months, which is when he will enter a crucial fine-tuning stage. That's when the important healing takes place. Of course, it happens very slowly, much more slowly than the progress we'll see in the first month or two."

It's also the time when the cards and letters may stop coming. It's the time when Sting will be left to fight the battle on his own.

But he doesn't have to be alone. Recovery is always much easier when somebody's at your side. Mind and body work together; when the mind is feeling good, the body will heal that much more quickly.

Which is why you must stay by Sting's side—not only now, but until his recovery is complete.

Have you sent Sting a card? Send him another one. Keep sending them every few weeks until Sting is back in the ring.

Do you bring Sting banners to arena cards? Keep bringing them; he'll see them. "Of course, I'm gonna keep on watching the sport on TV," Sting said. "I gotta keep my head in what's going on." Imagine how he'll feel seeing Sting banners when he isn't even wrestling!

Do you go to the matches with Sting paint on your face? Keep doing it! He'll see that, too.

He needs your support! He's given so much to you over the past few years. Now it's time to give a little bit of that support right back.

"Everything I do, I do with the fans

in mind," Sting said. "They're what drives me, and I'm not ashamed to say it. To tell you the truth, I wouldn't care as much about getting back if it didn't mean so much to my fans. You see, Flair and the Horsemen spit in their faces. The fans supported Flair, but he just used them. That really gets my goat."

Sting's high-flying style is among the most thrilling in the sport. There's not another young star that can pull a crowd out of its seats the way Sting can.

The sport needs him back.

"I'll definitely be back," Sting said. "You can bet on it."

Stand by your hero when he needs you most. Let Sting know you care.

This is his hour of need. □

## HOW SERIOUS? A MEDICAL VIEW

The following medical information is culled from Stu Saks' "From The Desk Of . . ." column in the June 1990 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

"This is a very, very grave injury," said Dr. Thaddeus Spak of Huntington Station, New York, an orthopedic surgeon who has performed the same surgical procedure but has never examined Sting. "He



could expect to be out for a year."

Following surgery on February 13, it was announced by the NWA that Sting will be out of action until at least mid-August.

To repair the patella, according to Dr. Spak, doctors use wires or stitches to pull the damaged tendons against the bone. Then they wire through the patella and loop in around the bone beneath the knee so that it doesn't move.

Once Sting begins his physical therapy, according to Dr. Spak, he will have to exercise the entire leg on a Cybex machine, particularly the quadricep muscles in the upper leg. When the power in his left leg is measured to within 20 percent of that in his right leg, he could be given the go-ahead to resume competition. "But he will never be 100 percent again," Spak said.

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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- 1—HULK HOGAN**  
*WWF World champion*  
**2—RIC FLAIR**  
*NWA World champion*  
**3—ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
*WWF Intercontinental champion*

- 4—LEX LUGER**  
*U.S. champion*  
**5—JERRY LAWLER**  
*USWA champion*  
**6—ARN ANDERSON**  
*NWA TV champion*  
**7—MR. SAITO**  
*AWA World champion*

- 8—DUSTY RHODES**  
*No. 3 contender: WWF title*  
**9—KERRY VON ERICH**  
*USWA Texas champion*  
**10—CURTIS THOMPSON**  
*PNW champion*  
**11—LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
*No. 2 contender: AWA title*

- 12—RANDY SAVAGE**  
*No. 2 contender: WWF title*  
**13—TONY ATLAS**  
*ICW champion*  
**14—CURT HENNIG**  
*No. 4 contender: WWF title*  
**15—HARLEY RACE**  
*WWC Caribbean champion*

## NWA

- 1—RIC FLAIR**  
*243, Minneapolis, MN*  
**2—LEX LUGER**  
*268, Chicago, IL*  
**3—ARN ANDERSON**  
*249, Minneapolis, MN*

- 4—BRIAN PILLMAN**  
*226, Cincinnati, OH*  
**5—NORMAN THE LUNATIC**  
*380, Saginaw, MI*  
**6—KEVIN SULLIVAN**  
*252, Boston, MA*  
**7—MIKE ROTUNDO**  
*245, Syracuse, NY*

- 8—BUZZ SAWYER**  
*240, St. Petersburg, FL*  
**9—DOUG FURNAS**  
*265, Commerce, OK*  
**10—TOMMY RICH**  
*248, Hendersonville, TN*  
**11—EDDIE GILBERT**  
*222, Lexington, TN*

- 12—SAMOAN SAMU**  
*260, Samoa*  
**13—TOM ZENK**  
*237, Minneapolis, MN*  
**14—RANGER ROSS**  
*225, Acworth, GA*  
**15—CACTUS JACK**  
*247, Truth or Consequences, NM*

## AWA

- 1—MR. SAITO**  
*247, Tokyo, Japan*  
**2—NIKITA KOLOFF**  
*275, Moscow, Russia*  
**3—LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
*248, Pittsburgh, PA*

- 4—SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
*310, Parris Island, SC*  
**5—JOHN NORD**  
*316, Bozeman, MT*  
**6—D.J. PETERSON**  
*245, St. Joseph, MO*  
**7—KOKINA MAXIMUS**  
*340, Samoa*

- 8—PAUL DIAMOND**  
*230, Thunder Bay, Ontario*  
**9—COL. DEBEERS**  
*248, Cape Town, S. Africa*  
**10—BRAD RHEINGANS**  
*248, Appleton, MN*  
**11—THE RUSSIAN BRUTE**  
*285, Moscow, Russia*

- 12—THE TROOPER**  
*243, Charlotte, NC*  
**13—DERRICK DUKES**  
*235, Boston, MA*  
**14—THE NIGHTSTALKER**  
*285, parts unknown*  
**15—BIG VAN VADER**  
*375, Denver, CO*

## WWF

- 1—HULK HOGAN**  
*302, Venice Beach, CA*  
**2—ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
*280, Queens, NY*  
**3—RANDY SAVAGE**  
*245, Sarasota, FL*

- 4—DUSTY RHODES**  
*302, Austin, TX*  
**5—CURT HENNIG**  
*235, Minneapolis, MN*  
**6—JAKE ROBERTS**  
*246, Stone Mountain, GA*  
**7—RICK MARTEL**  
*236, Quebec, City, Quebec*

- 8—RODDY PIPER**  
*231, Glasgow, Scotland*  
**9—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
*273, San Francisco, CA*  
**10—BAD NEWS BROWN**  
*280, New York, NY*  
**11—TED DIBIASE**  
*247, Omaha, NB*

- 12—CANADIAN EARTHQUAKE**  
*462, Montreal, Quebec*  
**13—RICK RUDE**  
*246, Robbinsdale, MN*  
**14—DINO BRAVO**  
*256, Montreal, Quebec*  
**15—BIG BOSSMAN**  
*348, Cobb County, GA*

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—HULK HOGAN**  
*Last month: No. 1 Most Popular*  
**2—LEX LUGER**  
*Last month: No. 1 Most Hated*  
**3—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
*Last month: No. 4 Most Popular*

- 4—STING**  
*Last month: No. 2 Most Popular*  
**5—DUSTY RHODES**  
*Last month: No. 5 Most Popular*  
**6—NORMAN THE LUNATIC**  
*Last month: No. 11 Most Popular*  
**7—BIG BOSSMAN**  
*Last month: unrated*

- 8—RODDY PIPER**  
*Last month: No. 7 Most Popular*  
**9—BRIAN PILLMAN**  
*Last month: No. 8 Most Popular*  
**10—JEFF JARRETT**  
*Last month: No. 13 Most Popular*  
**11—RICK STEINER**  
*Last month: No. 6 Most Popular*

- 12—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
*Last month: No. 9 Most Popular*  
**13—KERRY VON ERICH**  
*Last month: No. 10 Most Popular*  
**14—JAKE ROBERTS**  
*Last month: No. 12 Most Popular*  
**15—NIKITA KOLOFF**  
*Last month: unrated*

## MOST HATED

- 1—RIC FLAIR**  
*Last month: No. 3 Most Popular*  
**2—OLE ANDERSON**  
*Last month: unrated*  
**3—RANDY SAVAGE**  
*Last month: No. 4 Most Hated*

- 4—JERRY LAWLER**  
*Last month: No. 5 Most Hated*  
**5—CURT HENNIG**  
*Last month: No. 2 Most Hated*  
**6—TED DIBIASE**  
*Last month: No. 8 Most Hated*  
**7—BUZZ SAWYER**  
*Last month: No. 6 Most Hated*

- 8—DINO BRAVO**  
*Last month: No. 7 Most Hated*  
**9—LANNY POFO**  
*Last month: unrated*  
**10—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
*Last month: unrated*  
**11—TONY ATLAS**  
*Last month: No. 14 Most Hated*

- 12—BAD NEWS BROWN**  
*Last month: No. 15 Most Hated*  
**13—RICK RUDE**  
*Last month: No. 3 Most Hated*  
**14—LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
*Last month: No. 9 Most Hated*  
**15—JOHNATHAN HOLIDAY**  
*Last month: unrated*

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—RICK & SCOTT STEINER**  
*NWA World tag team champions*  
**2—ANDRE THE GIANT & HAKU**  
*WWF World tag team champions*  
**3—THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
*No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title*  
**4—DEMOLITION**  
*No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title*  
**5—BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK**  
*U.S. tag team champions*

- 6—THE HART FOUNDATION**  
*No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title*  
**7—DOOM**  
*No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title*  
**8—MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN**  
*No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title*  
**9—REX KING & STEVE DOLL**  
*USWA tag team champions*  
**10—MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**  
*AWA World tag team champions*

- 11—THE ROCKERS**  
*No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title*  
**12—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
*No. 4 contenders: NWA tag team title*  
**13—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
*No. 5 contenders: NWA tag team title*  
**14—THE MERCENARIES**  
*WWC tag team champions*  
**15—THE DYNAMIC DUDES**  
*No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag team title*

*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.*

For period ended March 2, 1990

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

## ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**TOSHIKAKI KAWADA & SAMSON FUYUKI**

(October 20, 1989; from Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas; Nagoya, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & GENICHIRO TENRYU

(December 6, 1989; tournament final over Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUKO NISHIWAKI

(January 1, 1990; elimination final over Bull Nakano; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYOTA

(November 18, 1989; tournament final over Mika Tekahashi; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**GRIZZLY IWAMOTO & AJA KONG**

(December 9, 1989; from Yumiko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

## \* AWA WORLD CHAMPION: MR. SAITO

(February 10, 1990; from Larry Zbyszko; Tokyo, Japan)

## AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DESTRUCTION CREW

(October 1, 1989; tournament final over Greg Gagne & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

## AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

## CWA CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE

(November 19, 1989; from Dirty White Boy; Memphis, TN)

## CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by The Rock 'n' Roll Express)

## ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

## \* ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Dennis Condrey & Doug Gilbert)

## IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(August 10, 1989; from Riki Choshu; Tokyo, Japan)

## IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**MASA SAITO & SHINYA HASHIMOTO**

(September 20, 1989; from Riki Choshu & Takayuki Izuki; Osaka, Japan)

## \* IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THUNDER RIGER

(January 31, 1990; from Naoki Sano; Osaka, Japan)

## LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON

(by LPWA officials' decision)

## NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 2, 1990; from The Great Muta; Gainesville, GA)

## \* NWA U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK

(February 12, 1990; tournament final over Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; Rainville, AL)

## NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)

## NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(November 1, 1989; from Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; Atlanta, GA)

## \* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: CURTIS THOMPSON

(February 3, 1990; from Scotty the Body; Portland, OR)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by The Grappler & Bryan Adams)

## \* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA

(February 24, 1990; from Al Madril; Portland, OR)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**STAN HANSEN & GENICHIRO TENRYU**

(December 6, 1989; tournament final over Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Tokyo, Japan)

## PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

## PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS

(January 6, 1990; from Bounty Hunter I & Terminator; Nassau, Bahamas)

## \* PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND

(February 11, 1990; tournament final victory; Las Vegas, NV)

## \* SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: JOEL DEATON

(by officials' decision)

## \* SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**BILLY STARR & KAREEM MUHAMMAD**

(January 28, 1990; tournament final over Ted Allen & Jim Powell; Griffin, GA)

## U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

## USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(January 8, 1990; from King Cobra; Memphis, TN)

## \* USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: REX KING & STEVE DOLL

(February 6, 1990; from Robert Fuller & Brian Lee; Louisville, KY)

## USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH

(January 5, 1990; from Jerry Lawler; Dallas, TX)

## WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

(January 6, 1990; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MERCENARIES

(October 7, 1989; from Miguel Perez Jr. & Hurricane Castillo Jr.; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EDDIE WATTS

(January 27, 1990; from Super Medic; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ

(January 13, 1990; from Invader I; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MERCENARIES

(February 4, 1990; from Chris & Mark Youngblood; Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: TNT

(February 10, 1990; from Leo Burke; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

## WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

## WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(August 28, 1989; from Rick Rude; East Rutherford, NJ)

## WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(April 2, 1989; from Randy Savage; Atlantic City, NJ)

## WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ANDRE THE GIANT & HAKU

(December 13, 1989; from Demolition; Huntsville, AL)

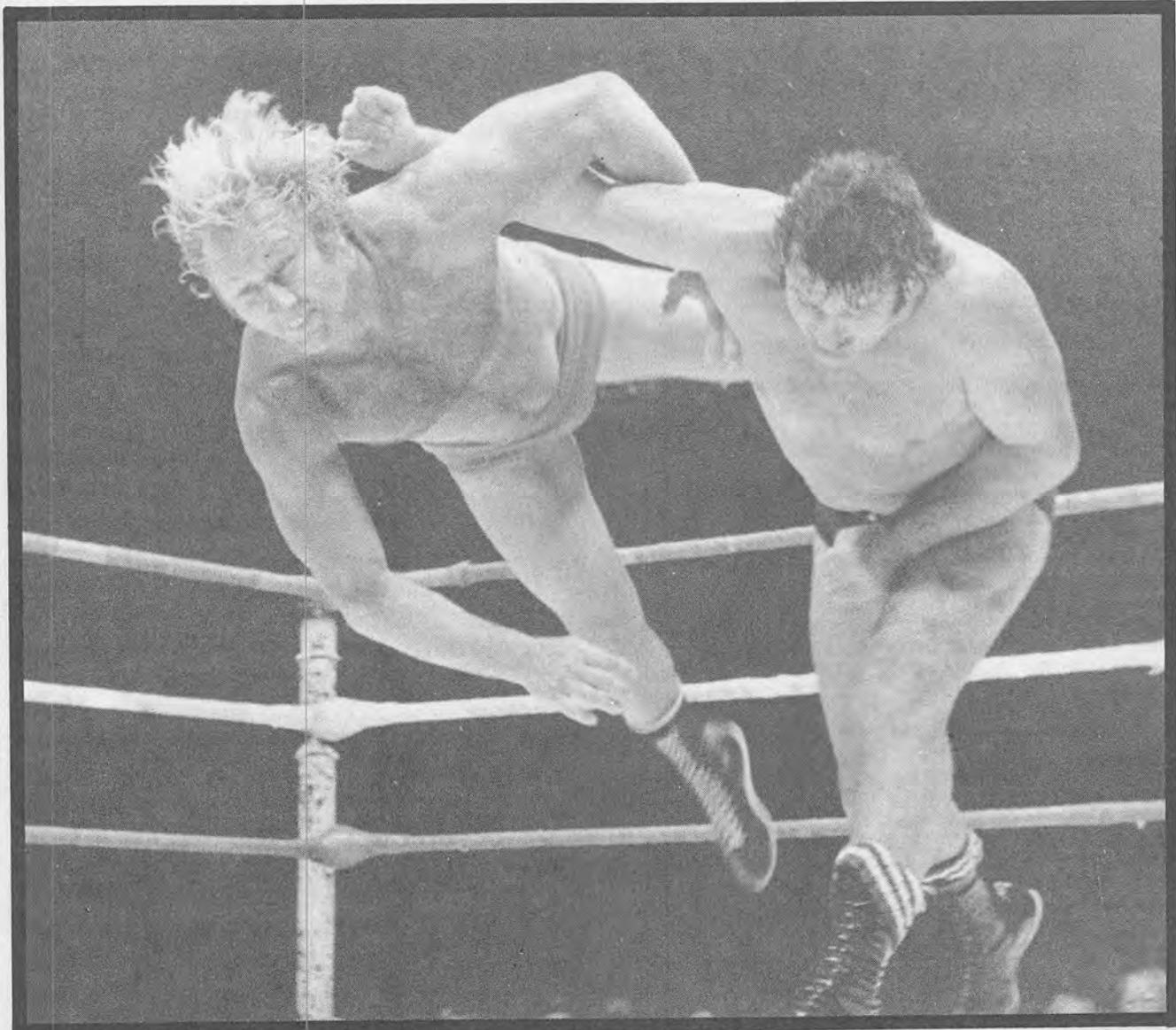
## WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

# **Blast From The Past**

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**"THE GREATEST WRESTLER WHO NEVER BECAME WORLD CHAMPION"**



**NICK BOCKWINKEL vs. BILLY ROBINSON**  
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For years, highly touted former European champion Billy Robinson was considered the number-one contender to the AWA World title. Robinson first started getting title matches when Verne Gagne was champion in the early '70s, but never managed to defeat the Minnesota legend. When wily veteran Nick Bockwinkel defeated Gagne for the title in 1975, Robinson continued to be the most persistent challenger for the belt. Of all the times Bockwinkel and Robinson locked up in title matches, many consider this bout, in Omaha, Nebraska, to be the greatest. As usual, Robinson was in top form, confusing Bockwinkel with his encyclopedic knowledge of scientific holds. But Robinson once again walked away frustrated when the bell sounded the finish of a one-hour draw. "Robinson was the best I ever fought," says Bockwinkel today.

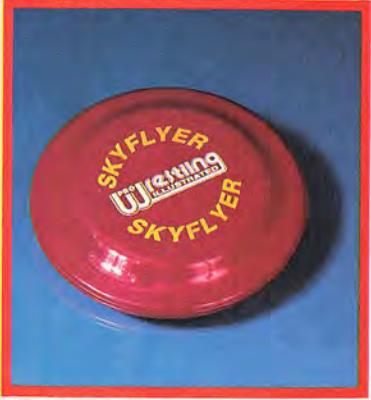
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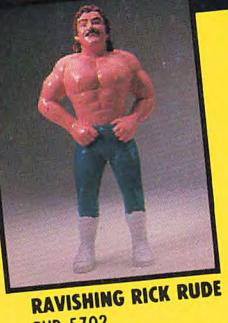
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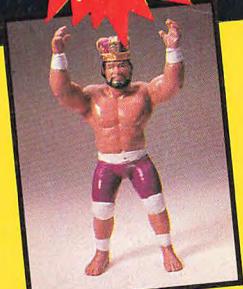
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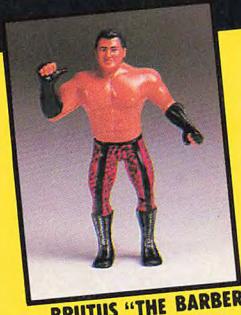
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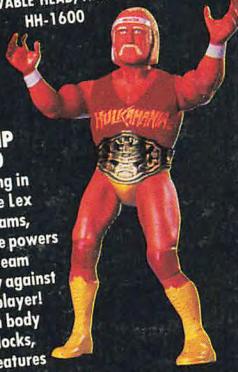


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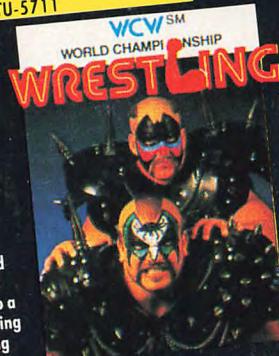


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